Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 290 | FRIDAY DECEMBER 4, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you believe federalization will bring prosperity to the CNMI?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS

PHASE 6

As of December 3, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

NMI Quarter

The U.S. Mint will launch the commemorative quarter for the CNMI at the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

LOCAL...Page 15

Text-a-Tip

Police across the country are getting help from a new source: anonymous texting.

TECHNOLOGY...Page 25

Labor never issued 'conditional umbrella permits'. **PAGE 3**

Target: Make the CNMI 'junk car-free' in 2010. **PAGE 9**

CHC autonomy bill heads to Fitial

House also OKs cell phone ban, but junks political status bill

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), front-center, addresses members during a session break yesterday. Among the measures passed is a Senate-amended bill giving the Commonwealth Health Center autonomy and accountability.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Center is just a step away from becoming an "autonomous" and accountable agency after the House of Representatives approved yesterday the Senate amendments to a House bill creating a Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

See CHC on Page 4

GREEN CHRISTMAS HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Christmas trees made of recyclable materials adorn the tourist strip of Paseo de Marianas in Garapan last night. At least 14 private and public schools joined the 4th Christmas Tree Decoration Contest sponsored by PDM Promoters Inc., in cooperation with 36 other private and government agencies. ***See story on Page 16.***

$350 one-time gift for 215 former garment workers

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Garment Workers Trust Fund will start giving out $350 each to 215 former garment workers possibly by next week—an early Christmas gift described as the trust fund's one-time charitable contribution to these workers.

"At least somebody will have a Christmas," trust fund chair Timothy H. Bellas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson

Bellas

See WORKERS on Page 4

Q&A Parole Authority

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will grant parole on a case-by-case basis to qualifying individuals in certain groups of aliens in the CNMI. This authority will be exercised pursuant to section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act and applicable regulations.

Q. What groups in the CNMI may be eligible for a grant of parole?

A.: The following may be eligible for a grant of parole:

- CNMI permanent residents;
- Immediate relatives of CNMI permanent residents;
- Spouses and children of deceased CNMI permanent residents; and
- The immediate relatives of citizens

See Q&A on Page 2

Local

Q&A

From Page 1

of the Freely Associated States (the Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands).

Q. What is an immediate relative?

A. For this parole program only, USCIS will apply the definition of "immediate relative" under CNMI law. "Immediate relative" means:

- A legally recognized spouse;
- A child under the age of 21 years whether natural or adopted before the age of 18 years;
- A stepchild if the marriage that created the stepchild relationship took place before the child's eighteenth birthday; or
- A surviving spouse or child of a CNMI permanent resident.

Q. What does parole status mean?

A. An applicant for admission under U.S. immigration law is an alien who has not been inspected and admitted by a U.S. immigration officer. As of the transition program effective date (Nov. 28, 2009), aliens present in the CNMI who do not have a U.S. immigration status will be applicants for admission. USCIS has the discretionary authority to parole applicants for admission for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. An alien who is paroled remains an applicant for admission, but has been affirmatively authorized to remain in the United States and may apply for a discretionary grant of work authorization.

Q. How long is this parole status valid?

A. Parole status generally is valid for two years and will be renewable contingent on the alien's continued eligibility. Also, USCIS may terminate the grant of parole if it has reason to do so (such as the paroled alien committing a crime or experiencing a personal change in circumstances affecting eligibility.)

Q. Will people have to show proof of their CNMI status to qualify for parole?

A. Yes. The following may be submitted as proof of your status and/or qualifying relationship (copies may be accepted):

- CNMI Permanent Resident or Immediate Relative Status Card
- FAS national's evidence of status
- Marriage certificate
- Child's birth certificate
- Decedent's death certificate
- Evidence of your last CNMI immigration status
- Evidence of your current CNMI employment status

Q. Are there other requirements to obtain parole status?

A. Yes. Grants of parole under this policy are not automatic, but will be determined on a case-by-case basis. USCIS will consider any inadmissibility factors that may warrant an unfavorable exercise of discretion. Applicants for exercise of this parole authority must establish the qualifying status as a member of an impacted group. Applicants must also have been lawfully present under CNMI law in the CNMI immediately preceding the transition program effective date.

Q. What are the filing fees associated with obtaining parole status?

A. There is no filing fee to obtain parole in the CNMI under this program. If a paroled alien requests employment authorization or travel privileges, he or she will have to file the appropriate application form. Current filing fees are $340 for Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization and $305 for a Form I-131, Application for Travel Document. USCIS may waive the filing fee for the Form I-765 based upon your inability to pay the fee. USCIS will waive the filing fee for impacted CNMI applicants upon demonstration of economic hardship that meets applicable thresholds. To request that USCIS waive the fee, enclose a letter with your Form I-765 in accordance with the form instructions. The Form I-131 fee may not be waived.

Requests to travel from the CNMI to rest of the United States and its other territories (including Guam) do not require a filing fee.

Q. When can I apply for parole status?

A: You may apply for parole status any time on or after Nov. 28, 2009.

Q. How will USCIS process my application?

A: USCIS will confirm your status, conduct a background check, consider any inadmissibility factors that may warrant an unfavorable exercise of discretion and perform other processing functions. If USCIS approves your application, you will be sent a Form I-94, Arrival and Departure Record. If your application is denied, USCIS will send a letter to notify you.

Q. How do I apply for parole?

A: You must first make an appointment online to visit the USCIS Application Support Center, TSL Plaza Building, Beach Road South, Saipan, CNMI. You will need to submit the parole request in person to a USCIS immigration officer at that appointment. You may make an appointment online at www.uscis.gov.

At the appointment, the immigration officer will receive the application and answer any filing questions. If you are applying for parole based on being the spouse of a citizen of the Freely Associated States, the immigration officer will conduct an interview with you and your spouse. While at the appointment, you will be required to undergo fingerprinting to initiate the security checks required prior to parole issuance. No fee will be charged for the parole application or this fingerprinting.

Q. What must I submit during my appointment at the ASC Saipan?

A. You need to submit the following at your appointment:

- A request letter signed by you and addressed to the Director, USCIS District 26, Honolulu Hawaii. The letter may be typewritten or legibly handwritten.
- Evidence of status as of the Transition Program Effective Date (November 28, 2009);
- Evidence of residence in the CNMI at the time of application;
- A completed Form G-325, Biographic Information;
- Four recent passport-style photos; and
- A valid identity document such as a passport or birth certificate.

Q. Is my work authorization automatic upon being granted parole?

A: No. You must first be granted parole and submit evidence (Form I-94) of the grant with your employment authorization application (Form I-765). If work authorization is approved, you will be eligible to work in the CNMI for the entire period of parole.

Q: Can I work for any CNMI employer with employment authorization?

A: Yes. This employment authorization is unrestricted.

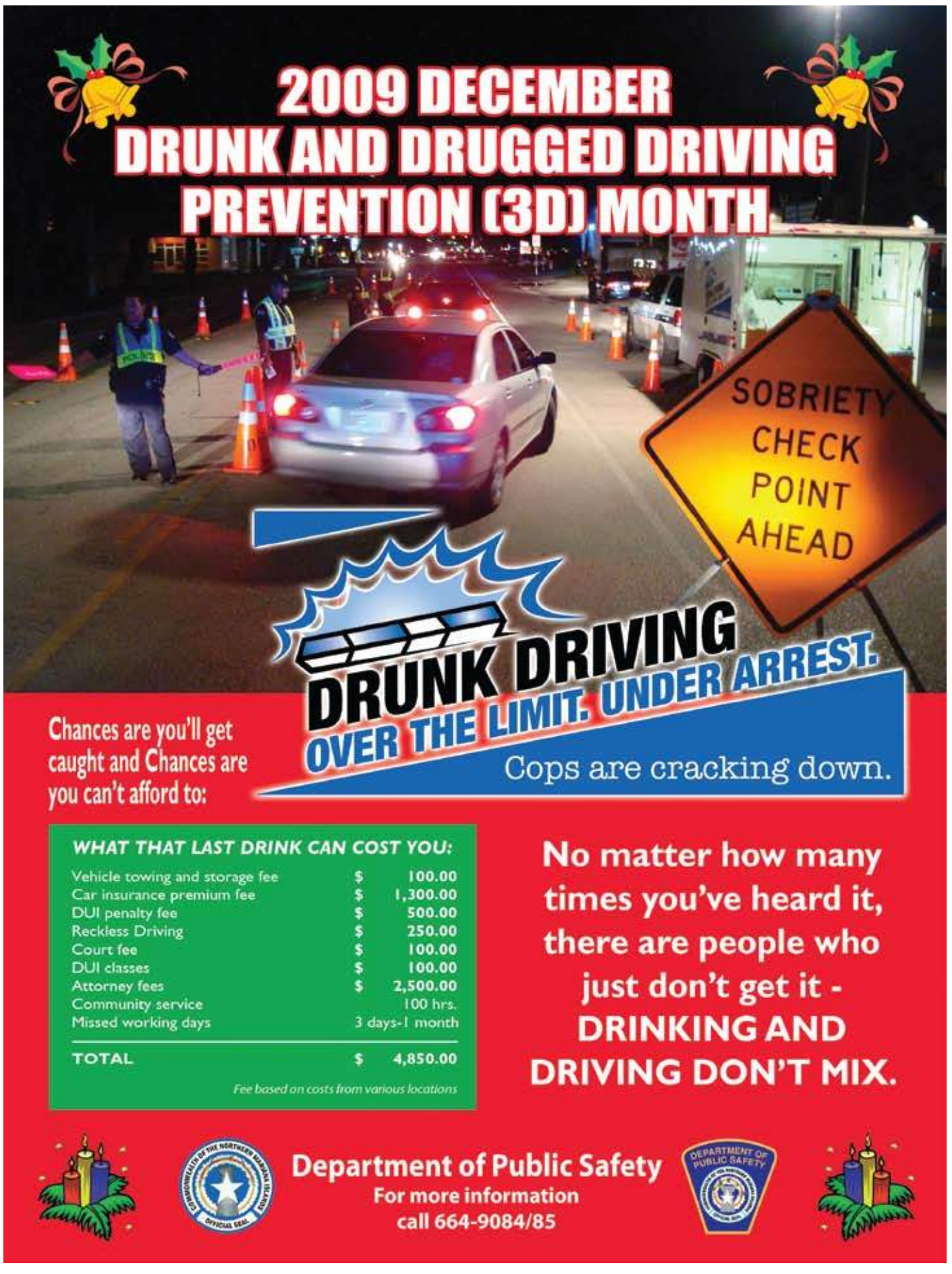
Q. How do I apply for employment authorization?

A: You must file an Application for Employment Authorization, Form I-765, in accordance with the filing instructions to the location designated in the form instructions. Employment authorization will be granted in increments up to two-years.

Q. Can I travel to Guam, Hawaii, or the U.S. Mainland with parole status?

A. As a parolee, you may be eli-

See Q&A on Page 4


2009 DECEMBER
DRUNK AND DRUGGED DRIVING
PREVENTION (3D) MONTH
SOBRIETY
CHECK
POINT
AHEAD
DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.
Cops are cracking down.
Chances are you'll get caught and Chances are you can't afford to:
WHAT THAT LAST DRINK CAN COST YOU:
Vehicle towing and storage fee $ 100.00
Car insurance premium fee $ 1,300.00
DUI penalty fee $ 500.00
Reckless Driving $ 250.00
Court fee $ 100.00
DUI classes $ 100.00
Attorney fees $ 2,500.00
Community service 100 hrs.
Missed working days 3 days-1 month
TOTAL $ 4,850.00
Fee based on costs from various locations
No matter how many times you've heard it, there are people who just don't get it - DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.
Department of Public Safety
For more information
call 664-9084/85

I just got a great pair of glasses for just $77.00! at Marianas Eye Institute

Just $77.00 for a complete pair of glasses:
- Lens & Frames included
- One-year warranty
- Selected Brands
- Lightweight lenses
- $127.00 for Progressive "no-line" bifocals

Most Insurance Accepted
Walk-ins welcome
235-9090
Beach Road, Garapan
www.MarianasEye.com
Marianas Eye Institute
"Where Technology Meets Talent"

Labor never issued 'conditional umbrella permits'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Labor never issued any "conditional umbrella permits" and that no "umbrella permits" were issued after the Nov. 27, 2009, deadline, according to acting Labor Secretary Cinta Kaipat yesterday.

Kaipat also disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that their current estimate is that more than 96 percent of eligible workers picked up their "umbrella permits."

On the "conditional umbrella permits" issue, the acting Labor Secretary said they never issued such permits and that the announcement in the newspapers about the permits was only from Attorney General Edward Buckingham.

After the publication of that announcement, Kaipat said she and Buckingham issued a joint statement to clarify the situation.

"That statement is the current position of both agencies," she stressed.

In the joint statement, the Office of the Attorney General and Labor stated they would not issue "umbrella permits" to overstayers as the permits are not part of an amnesty program.

Buckingham earlier issued a public notice granting conditional "umbrella permits" to 628 aliens who have been classified as overstayers.

Kaipat said yesterday that Labor is not issuing "umbrella permits" anymore as the deadline was midnight of Nov. 27, 2009, which was set by federal law.

Kaipat said Labor issued "umbrella permits" to every person who applied with Labor who was eligible either under Labor's normal processes or under the Governor's Protocol.

"We finished issuing the last permit at about 5:15pm on Friday, Nov. 27. We were always confident that we could finish the permit-issuing process within the available time, and we did that. I'm very proud of the way the Labor Department staff performed this very large and important task," she said.

Kaipat said those who did not pick up their permits have already left the CNMI or are planning to leave soon and therefore did not need such permits.

"We will have more precise numbers when we reconcile all the digital records," she added.

Labor started issuing "umbrella permits" last Oct. 26.

35 pct. drop in November vehicle sales

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After posting a modest 5.6 percent growth in October, vehicle sales plunged by 35 percent in November, the Commonwealth Auto Dealers Association reported yesterday.

Only 32 new cars, trucks, vans and sport utility vehicles were sold in November, compared to 49 during the same month last year, CADA figures show.

Between January and November, CADA also sold 358 used or secondhand vehicles.

Year-to-date sales of new vehicles also plunged by 27 percent, or from 558 last year to 405 this year.

All three CADA members recorded decreases in their November sales.

Microl Corp. posted a 37 percent sales drop, selling only 19 new units of Toyota and Chevrolet last month, compared to 30 last year during the same period.

Triple "J" Motors, the authorized dealer of Hyundai, Mitsubishi, Isuzu, Suzuki and Mazda, sold only seven new units in November, compared to 12 last year.

Joeten Motors sold only six new vehicles last month, compared to seven last year during the same period. Joeten Motors is the local authorized distributor of new Nissan, Ford, Honda and Kia units.

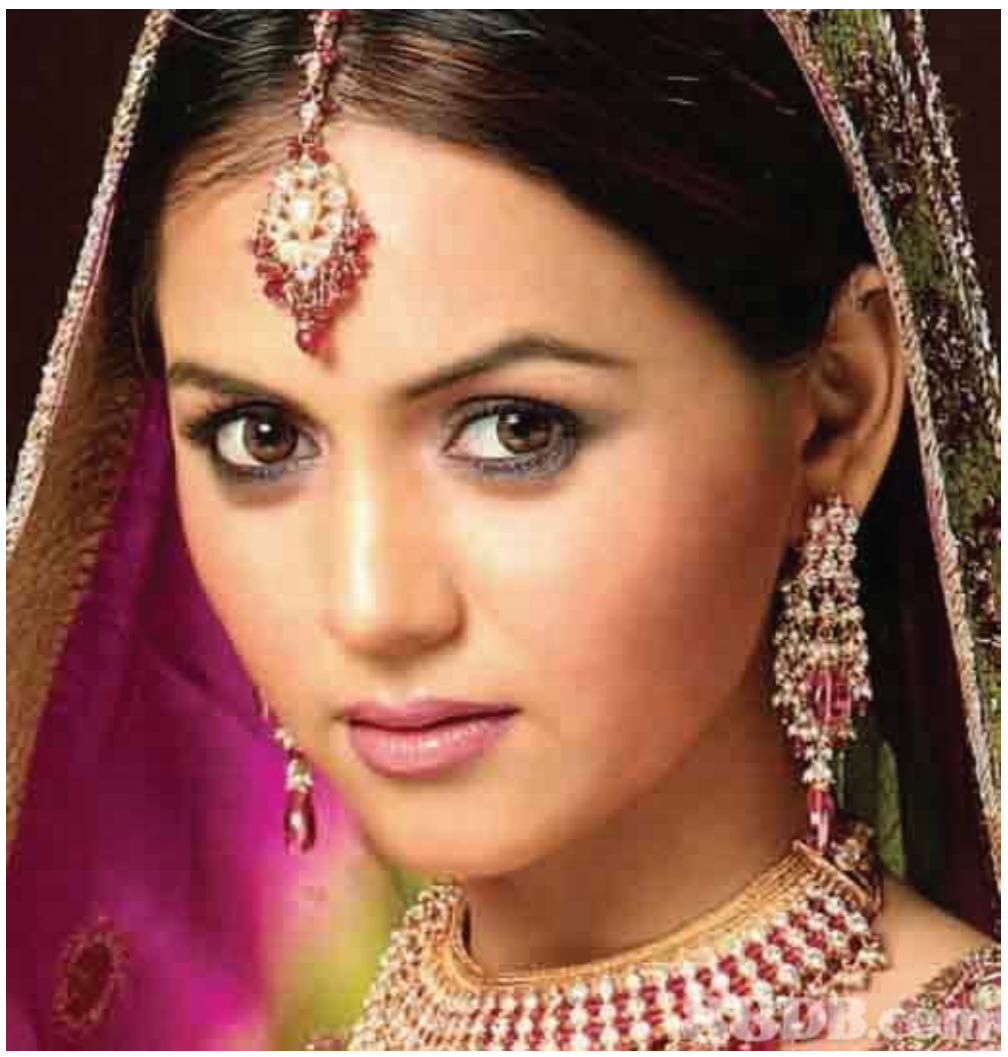
Of the 32 new vehicles sold last month, 14 were cars, 14 were SUVs, two vans, and two trucks.

Toyota Yaris ranked first among all vehicle types and among cars in November with six units sold.

Toyota RAV4 came in second with four units sold, followed by Hyundai Tucson with three units sold.

Two units each of Mazda Pick-Up, Kia Sportage and Toyota Highlander were sold.

CADA also sold one new unit each of Hyundai Genesis Cp, Mazda3, Nissan Altima, Toyota Camry, Toyota Sienna, GM Vans, Honda Element, Nissan Murano, and Nissan Rogue in November.



Indian Night
Every Thursday
PauPau Bar & Terrace
Enjoy a variety of Indian cuisines
plus bottomless iced-tea and sodas
50% off on other beverages (except full bottles)
6:00 pm ~ 9:00 pm
$25.00 adult & $12.50 child
20% local discount / San Roque Club welcome
The Palms on PauPau Beach
For more information or reservation, please call 322-3311.

PHI PHARMACY
Diabetes Shoppe Your Partner In Diabetes Care
Good Neighbor Pharmacy
Christmas Sale
25% off all OTC items
50% off On selected items
Gift Certificates available at all stores
December 4-18, 2009 at all three locations.
Navy Hill (CHC) 322-5000/01/02
Dandan (Joeten Center) 235-6170/71/72
Puerto Rico (Marina Heights II, Suite 101A) 323-5100
Website: www.phipharmacy.com

RELOAD TODAY!
Prepaid Cards for your Prepaid Phone.
All calls from any carrier!
20¢ OUTGOING 10¢ INCOMING
PER MINUTE ANYTIME!
docomo GSM / WCDMA WIRELESSCARD GO! PREPAID TWENTY $20 DOLLARS DOCOMO PACIFIC
GSM / WCDMA WIRELESSCARD GO! PREPAID FIVE $5 DOLLARS DOCOMO PACIFIC
GSM / WCDMA WIRELESSCARD GO! PREPAID TEN $10 DOLLARS NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
TEXTING RATES
4¢ CNMI & Guam
6¢ Philippines
10¢ International & U.S. Mainland
FREE outgoing Long Distance to Canada, Guam, Hawaii, China, USA, Hong Kong, Australia, Alaska & Korea (only airtime charges apply).
GSM WCDMA PREPAID
NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
483-CARE | www.docomopacific.com | Typhoon-Proven
Gualo Rai, Middle Road • Mita Travel, Garapan

Q&A

From Page 2

gible to travel to other parts of the United States and its territories. To request authorization to travel to other parts of the United States and/or a U.S. territory, you must prepare and sign a letter indicating the purpose of the travel and your intention to return to the CNMI. The letter must be addressed and mailed to the Field Office Director, USCIS Guam Field Office, Sirena Plaza, Suite 100 108 Hernan Cortez Avenue Hagatna, Guam 96910. The Guam Field Office will notify you in writing of the decision on your travel request. Further information is available on the Form I-131 instructions or from the ASC Saipan.

Q: Can I travel to a foreign country and reenter the CNMI while I'm a parolee?

A: You may be eligible for advance parole to reenter the CNMI from foreign travel. To apply for advance parole, mail an Application for Travel Document, Form I-131, with fee and supporting documents in accordance with the form instructions to the Field Office Director, USCIS Guam Field Office, Sirena Plaza, Suite 100 108 Hernan Cortez Avenue Hagatna, Guam 96910. The Guam Field Office will notify you in writing of the decision on your travel request.

Q. If I am approved for travel to Guam, Hawaii, or the U.S. Mainland with parole status, and I have an Employment Authorization Document (EAD), can I be employed in that other U.S. location?

A. No. USCIS will not approve travel of CNMI parolees to other U.S. destinations for residence or employment purposes. Under this program your EAD is not considered valid for employment outside the CNMI. You will be in violation of your conditions of parole, and may be removed from the United States to your country of nationality if you obtain such employment.

Q. Upon my return to the CNMI from a foreign country, would I still keep my employment authorization in the CNMI?

A: Yes. Traveling outside and returning to the CNMI does not terminate employment authorization provided you continue to meet the conditions of parole.

Q: Can I renew my parole once it expires in two years?

A: You may request to renew (re-parole) up to 120 days before your existing parole period expires. Follow the same filing procedure as with the initial parole application. Renewal is contingent on the alien's continued eligibility. Also, USCIS may terminate the grant of parole if it has reason to do so (such as the paroled alien committing a crime or experiencing a personal change in circumstances affecting eligibility.)

Q: Can I renew my work authorization?

A: You can file your renewal employment authorization document (EAD) with USCIS up to 120 days before your existing EAD expires but AFTER your re-parole application is approved. To avoid a lapse in authorization, request re-parole early so USCIS can process your application and send you a new Form I-94.

Q. Does parole provide lawful permanent residence (green card) status?

A. No. Parole is temporary and does not provide any legal permanent status. The terms and conditions of the parole granted will be set forth in the parole document. These terms and conditions do not include a grant of lawful permanent resident status.

Q. If I am eligible for parole under this program, am I required to apply for it immediately on November 28, 2009?

A. No. Aliens lawfully present under CNMI law on the transition date generally may remain for the period of their CNMI authorization, or 2 years, whichever is less, and may in many cases have continuing work authorization for the same period. Upon the expiration of the CNMI status or 2 years, whichever occurs first, aliens must obtain lawful status under U.S. immigration law. Applications under this parole authority may be one means through which aliens may secure such lawful status. However, U.S. immigration benefits under parole are not automatic and you must apply to obtain such benefits. You may also be eligible for immigrant or nonimmigrant status under the Immigration & Nationality Act. Therefore, you may choose not to apply for this parole even if you are eligible for it.

Q. If I am granted parole under this program, do I lose my continuing employment authorization for up to two years after Nov. 28, 2009, under the CNRA?

A. No, you may continue to work under your CNRA authorization if you are granted parole, without having to apply for an Employment Authorization Document. However, you will need an EAD in order to work after November 28, 2011 (or the date of expiration of your CNRA authorization, if sooner), or to perform any employment that is not within the scope of that authorization.

Q. Does this mean that no other aliens in the CNMI will be paroled?

A. No. USCIS has determined that parole may be granted to eligible aliens in these particular groups at this time. USCIS and other DHS immigration agencies may use parole authority in other situations on a case-by-case basis as may be appropriate.

Q. What about parole applicants from Tinian and Rota?

A. All CNMI applicants mail applications to the same address, as indicated on the instructions for the corresponding form. USCIS may consider occasional travel to Tinian and Rota in the future should the need arise for parole issuance and biometrics, however, there are currently no plans to offer this service. Parole requires an in-person appearance, applicants from Tinian and Rota therefore should plan to travel to Saipan for that purpose.

Source: USCIS

WORKERS

From Page 1

approved yesterday the trust fund's proposal to pay out $165,550 to some former garment workers out of the $722,873 that's left over from the settlement funds in the class action suit filed against garment factories.

Bellas' proposal is a one-time charitable contribution to the 215 garment workers, totaling $75,250.

The CNMI Department of Labor and the Office of the Federal Ombudsman submitted to the trust fund 215 applications on behalf of former garment workers with unpaid wages. These workers are reportedly still in the CNMI.

Bellas advises the 215 workers that the money will be available probably starting Wednesday.

"They need to come with IDs and get their checks," Bellas said.

The former Superior Court judge also disclosed that he will be sending a letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to notify him about the distribution of the money.

"I will be sending a letter to the governor that says by this copy I'm asking the Ombudsman and the Labor Office to do what they can to notify the [workers] as well," he said.

Bellas also stressed that, as long as they still have money, the trust fund will continue funding the repatriation of former garment workers who have no jobs or wish to go back to their countries.

The court granted the trust fund's request to provide air fare for 63 garment workers, with an additional $100 for travel allowance.

"Due to variations in destinations, the total estimated amount for the repatriation plan will be approximately $65,330 including the $100 travel allowance per worker," Bellas said in the proposal.

He said the trustees feel that repatriation is a consistent and pervasive theme of the settlement agreement and it was decided that all applications for repatriation be approved.

In addition to the cost of a nonrefundable one-way air ticket to the point of hire, each repatriated worker would get $100 for incidental travel expenses.

The trust fund is also keeping aside $25,000 for 44 alien workers that submitted inconclusive documentation for medical assistance. It said each worker must submit a medical certificate from a doctor describing the nature of his or her illness and the type and cost of treatment that is required. The deadline for each worker to provide this supporting document was on Nov. 6, 2009.

The trust fund received a total of 1,313 applications from former garment workers who want to avail of its hardship based assistance.

Total fund on hand is $722,873.18. The trust fund will retain $21,451.79 in the operations account.

Bellas said the remaining $500,000-plus will go to a chosen charitable institution. He said Munson told him to republish the notice to the charities because they didn't really get many applicants.

"I'm republishing the notice hopefully by Monday," he said.

Five charitable institutions or agencies submitted applications on time while one filed yesterday, past the original deadline.

"Now that we're re-opening it, we expect more applicants," Bellas said.

The former Garment Oversight Board established the trust fund. The board was set up pursuant to the $20-million settlement agreement in the class action against the garment industry.

CHC

From Page 1

On a 14-0 vote, the House passed House Bill 16-9, which now heads to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's desk for his signature.

The governor, who is currently in Guam for the three-day 12th Micronesian Chief Executives Summit, earlier said he supports the measure.

In yesterday's session, the House also passed a bill banning cellular phone use while driving and a measure establishing a Guardianship Act, but junked a bill creating a Second Marianas Political Status Commission to review the CNMI's "political relationship" with the United States.

The CHC bill, authored by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios, is hailed as a "landmark" legislation by lawmakers and officials, including Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez and Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

"The Healthcare Corporation Act stands as one of the most significant pieces of legislation considered during this 16th Legislature, and its passage today is historic. This landmark legislation represents the first step toward creating a health care system that is independent, professionally managed, financially accountable, and capable of meeting the pressing health care needs of our community," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* when asked for comment.

She said the bill is a product of much hard work and careful consideration of best practices for public health care corporations and lessons learned from the CNMI's own history.

"The bill has been many years in the making, and it appears that its time has finally come. I am hopeful that the governor will sign it into law as soon as possible," Sablan added.

Results of a legislative survey highlighted the need to overhaul operation and approach to delivery of quality health care at CHC due to factors such as mismanagement, lack of physicians, inadequate procurement practices, and poor records and billing systems. The hospital had also been the focus of legislative hearings.

Main benefits

Villagomez, who was at the House session yesterday, said the recent amendments by the Senate did not change much of the original intention of the bill.

The Department of Public Health and the administration worked with members of the House and the Senate to draft H.B 16-9 to ensure that improvement in health care delivery is achieved with the creation of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., he said.

Villagomez cited six main benefits of turning CHC into a health corporation, including the ability to recruit and retain talented health care professionals and to professionalize the management of CHC by developing unique organizational structures and policies that are currently restricted by being under the broader government umbrella.

He said the measure will provide CHC more operational flexibility than is possible under the current structure. "This is crucial to moving forward in developing an improved health care system," he said.

Another benefit is improved transparency and accountability in financial operations.

Villagomez also cited improved governance by a knowledgeable board of directors, and improved management efficiency by allowing managers to better focus on hospital operations.

The bill, he added, will also lead to better integration of CHC into the on-island private health care delivery system.

All 14 members of the 20-member House present in yesterday's session voted in favor of the hospital bill.

Those with excused absences were Reps. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan), Rep. Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota), Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Justo Quitugua, Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), and Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

Political Status Commission

In yesterday's session, the House nixed a bill that would have re-examined U.S.-CNMI relations, particularly whether a "commonwealth" status is still desired by people.

This comes a few days after the federal government took control of CNMI immigration on Nov. 28.

Of the 13 members in the chamber during a voice vote on the bill, seven voted "no" on Rep. Stanley Torres's H.B. 16-271, while six voted "yes."

Those who rejected the bill included Reps. David Apatang (R-Saipan), Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Francisco Dela Cruz, Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan), Joe Reyes (R-Saipan), and House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios.

Torres, when asked for comment after the defeat of his bill, said he will reintroduce his legislation in the 17th Legislature, which will convene in January.

"It will be the first order of business for me. I will reintroduce it with some modification to convince other members to vote on it," he said.

During discussion on the bill, Benavente said it is not "realistic" to act on the bill, especially because of the millions in federal money that's being funneled by the U.S. government to the CNMI.

"These are money we need. Independence is not an option at this time. Maybe if oil is discovered in the Northern Islands. There's no need to change what we have now. It is an opportunity to be a part of the United States of America," he said.

Benavente, who chairs the House Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations, said the CNMI should "improve" its relations with the federal government rather than "change" its political status in relation to the U.S.

Sablan echoed most of Benavente's concerns, adding that convening a Political Status Commission has an "initial cost" of $200,000—something the CNMI does not have at this time.

She said the bill has also not gone through public hearings, which she said is an important part of the process.

The House speaker also said the bill is "very untimely," given that federalization of local immigration just took effect on Nov. 28.

In 1947, the Northern Mariana Islands became part of the post-World War II United Nations' Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The United States became the Trust Territory's administering authority under the terms of a trusteeship agreement.

In 1976, the U.S. Congress approved the mutually negotiated "Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with the United States."

A year later, the CNMI government adopted its own constitution, and the constitutional government took office in January 1978.

The Covenant was fully implemented on Nov. 3, 1986, pursuant to Presidential Proclamation 5564, which conferred U.S. citizenship on legally qualified CNMI residents.

Cell phone ban

On a 14-0 vote, the House passed Rep. Ed Salas (R-Saipan) bill restricting the use of wireless telephones while driving vehicles.

The House also unanimously passed H.B. 16-158, which seeks to establish a Guardianship Act.

DHS approves NMC's application to enroll foreign students

The Department of Homeland Security has approved the Northern Marianas College's application to enroll foreign students under the Department's Student and Exchange Visitor Program.

An approval from the Department of Homeland Security means that the Northern Marianas College meets the requirements to admit and enroll nonimmigrant students.

As a result, the college can now issue foreign students Certificates for Eligibility for Nonimmigrant Student Status, or the Form I-20, a document required to apply for "F" (academic programs) and "M" (nonacademic vocational programs) student visas.

The approval from Homeland Security also means that the college will help assume the responsibility for monitoring, tracking, reporting, and recordkeeping of nonimmigrant foreign students and ensure that international students are maintaining lawful nonimmigrant status.

The request to enroll foreign students under the federal system was originally submitted by the college last June, and it was followed by a visit from DHS officials in October.

"Through NMC's acceptance into the SEVP, the college will be able to continue offering a first-rate education to students from other countries throughout the world," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

"Foreign students contribute to the diversity of cultures, ideas, and perspectives here at the college so it is important that their ability to enroll at the college is continued," added Fernandez.

To obtain a student visa, foreign students will need to have

Fernandez

been accepted at NMC in either an academic or nonacademic vocational program. Student visa applicants will then meet with college officials to receive the necessary documents required for enrollment into the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System.

SEVIS is a Web-based information system that keeps track of foreign students and other exchange program participants, and allows information sharing among various institutions and government agencies that students and exchange visitors are involved with during their journey to the United States and their stay in the country.

This new process primarily applies to foreign students who are not already students at the Northern Marianas College. Those who are already enrolled should contact the NMC Office of Admissions and Records at oar@nmcnet.edu for more information.

Student visa applicants must pay a fee to be enrolled in SEVIS, and they will need to retain their proof of payment for presentation during their visa interview at a U.S. embassy in the country of student's origin. The fee varies according to the type of study or exchange program they are participating in and the type of visa they are applying for. The SEVIS fee for most students is $200. For more information on SEVIS enrollment requirements, visit http://travel.state.gov/visa/temp/types/types_1268.html.

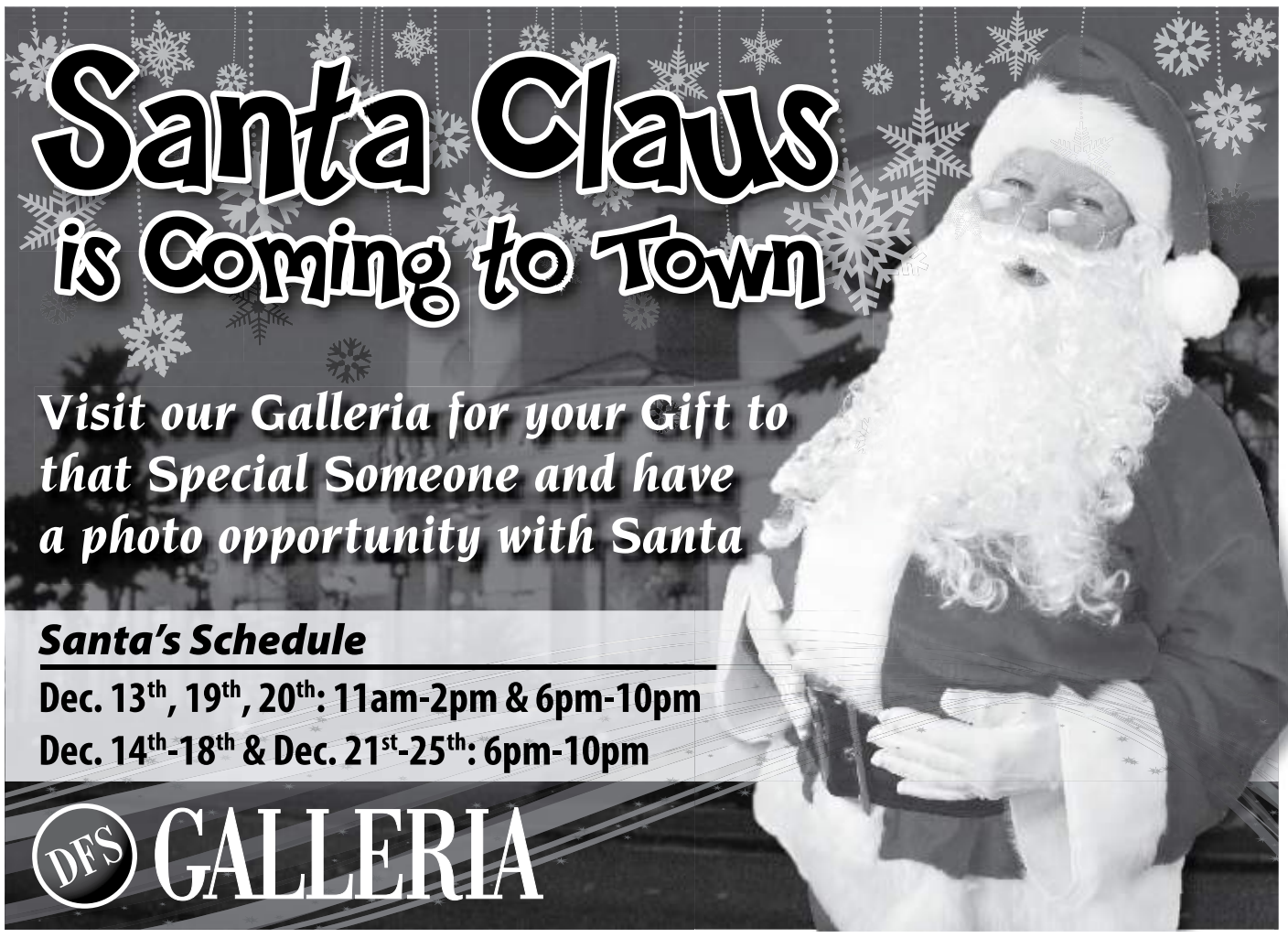
Student visa applicants would need to make an appointment for a visa interview by contacting the nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate. That information is available at www.usembassy.gov. Visa processing procedures can vary, depending on the U.S. Embassy or Consulate, but all student visa and exchange visitor visa applicants are given priority. ***(NMC)***

Holiday Toy Sale
Tons of Toys
10%-20% OFF
From December 4 to December 10, 2009 Only!
GARAPAN TEL. 234-8040
REGULAR HOURS: Mon. - Sat. 9am - 9pm
Sun. 10am - 6pm
LOLLIPOPS

2 convenient locations to better serve you!
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Beach Road Clinic
next to Megabyte, Beach Road, Garapan
235-2030
HARDT EYE CLINIC
Kagman Clinic
Kagman III, next to Kagman Postal and Kevin's Video
256-2020
HARDT EYE CLINIC
DAVID HARDT, O.D. | DON HARDT, O.D.
Using advanced technology combined with old-fashioned caring to provide unhurried and understandable exams.
Insurance plans and all major credit cards are gladly accepted

The After Hours Sale is back in time for Christmas!
SAMSUNG U350
$50.00*
COMA Camera-Phone
LG PM 225
$65.00*
COMA Camera-Phone
SAMSUNG R500
$95.00*
COMA Camera-Phone
NOKIA 6010
$30.00**
GSM Dual-Band
NOKIA 6103
$65.00**
GSM Quad-Band
MOTOROLA w510
$95.00**
GSM Quad-Band
SD Cards on sale: 1gb - $10.00
2gb - $15.00
4gb - $25.00
8gb - $30.00
Accessories 25% Discount
@ Wireless Express ONLY • ALL DAY!
Receive a Gift for every cellphone purchase
December 4, 2009 • 4:00pm to 7:00pm
Wireless Express Center (TSL Plaza - Garapan)
* FREE $20 Cell Card • Can keep number • while supplies last • No phonebook transfer • Credit cards accepted • some conditions apply
** FREE Prepaid SIM Card and $20 Load
IT&E
Life in Motion
Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

Zoning suspends its decision on Tanapag rezoning


Santa Claus
is Coming to Town
Visit our Galleria for your Gift to that Special Someone and have a photo opportunity with Santa
Santa's Schedule
Dec. 13th, 19th, 20th: 11am-2pm & 6pm-10pm
Dec. 14th-18th & Dec. 21st-25th: 6pm-10pm
DFS GALLERIA

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite the petition to change the zoning plan for certain Tanapag lots, the Zoning Board will not make any decision on the matter until all issues are reviewed.

About 200 Tanapag residents recently signed a petition to urge the board to allow the area for commercial use, but Zoning administrator Victor Barrett said yesterday the board will study the issue first.

The petition comes on the heels of another petition that bore 109 signatures, asking the board to keep the area's designation as residential.

The issue centers on 10 to 15 lots in Tanapag across the memorial hall that are classified as residential. A restaurant is being proposed in the area. A series of public hearings were conducted in Tanapag about the issue.

Saipan Tribune learned that during an early presentation to the Zoning board, the first petition with 109 signatures was submitted, asking the board to keep the place residential. Based on the presentation and petition, the board decided to suspend plans of rezoning the areas.

However, after the board ruled, another petition was submitted to the agency. This time, it had over 200 signatures expressing support for the plan to rezone the lots into commercial areas to give way for the restaurant.

"We have decided to suspend any action on the rezoning in Tanapag…until all petitions are reviewed by the board," Barrett said.

He said a final action may take place next year.

Barrett said the Zoning board is now looking into how it could make the zoning plan "more flexible" to the needs of the community.

"We're looking at other ways that could allow the restaurant to operate. But right now, we are not changing the decision, despite the community's clamor," Barrett said.

A public hearing was scheduled last night for the rezoning of lots in As Terlaje and As Perdido.

Two suspected 'ice' traffickers plead not guilty

Two suspected members of an "ice" trafficking organization in Tanapag pleaded not guilty in federal court yesterday.

Julita A. Sablan and Roque Norita pleaded not guilty to the indictment and waived their right to a speedy trial.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson accepted their plea and set the sentencing for Jan. 5, 2010, at 9am.

Munson heard two motions filed by Sablan. He said he will issue a written decision.

CNMI/Drug Enforcement Administration Task Force agents believe they dismantled an "ice" trafficking group in Tanapag with the arrest last September of "ice" supplier Sablan and her alleged couriers—Norita and Inos F. Germinaro.

The three were arrested for conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance, and possession of a controlled substance with intent to distribute.

DEA special agent Daniel G. Holcomb stated in his report that Sablan and her sellers or runners Germinaro and Norita conspired to distribute "ice" from August 2008 through July 28, 2009.

Holcomb said that Germinaro sold to a DEA confidential source 0.33 grams of "ice" on Aug. 12, 2008, and 0.15 grams on Aug. 26, 2008.

Sablan was allegedly in possession of 1.2 grams of "ice" on Feb. 25, 2009.

Norita allegedly sold 0.050 grams and 0.062 grams of "ice" to the confidential source on Feb. 19, 2009.

Holcomb said Sablan distributed 0.062 grams of "ice" to Norita for further delivery to the confidential source on Feb. 19, 2009.

Sablan allegedly distributed 0.6 grams of "ice" to a confidential source on July 27, 2009 and 0.55 grams of "ice" on July 28, 2009. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Air Saipan official threatens suit vs Web site

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A ranking official of the proposed Air Saipan hinted that he will pursue legal redress against a Web site that has posted what he described as "unfounded" allegations against himself and his person.

Air Saipan president Dean Mills earlier denied the allegations posted on the Web site deamillsconman.com, which described him as a con man with several fake business deals in many countries.

: "We would like to advise that those who appear on any Web site against myself or Air Saipan will be contacted in January by a nominated lawyer firm, to discuss and issue any compensation that is fair and due," he said.

In a statement to *Saipan Tribune*, Mills said he personally wants to see this dealt with.

Mills stated that all those "wanting and willing" for Air Saipan not to fly will be surprised.

"While I am taking a smaller role, as we need experts to run this company, the only way to prove everyone wrong is by starting and continuing flights to Saipan. Our financial partners will not only request but insist on this," he said.

Mills said plans for Air Saipan were pushed back in 2006 because of undercapitalization.

"The last airline was undercapitalized and didn't have such a management team and capital to make it fly," he said. "It was a tough few years for my business and personally. I am looking forward to 2010 being a great year."

Airline execs named

Mills has named two individuals— chief executive officer William Chen and Paul Templeton—as the company's representatives who will personally work on the airline project. The two are expected to come out with concrete plans for the business late next month.

"The shareholding of this new company will be a completely different structure from the old Air Saipan and explained in full. As mentioned, capital will be up to $20 million minimum before the airline takes off and may be more, dependant on advice received from consultants and getting support from the Saipan business and government," he added.

Mills disclosed that Chen is leading the project and is currently structuring and putting the plan together with various consultants and Chinese outbound operators.

Also, they will take responsibility for any problems the old Air Saipan team had.

Mills earlier said the new airline aims to employ about 60 individuals on the islands who will begin training in January next year.

Initially, Air Saipan flights will be chartered and will operate out of Guangzhou and Shanghai and a possible Cairns flight in 2011. Lufthansa Consulting recently signed an agreement with Air Saipan as its consulting arm.

Indian Night arrives at the Palms Resort's PauPau Bar

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Food and beverage manager Cristina Lustre and executive sous chef Habib Akbar are inviting everyone to try out Palms Resort's Indian Night every Thursday.

WHAT'S COOKING?

Palms Resort Saipan is beefing up its theme nights at Paupau Bar & Terrace by introducing Indian cuisine every Thursday.

Food and beverage manager Cristina Lustre said Indian Night started this week and will be a staple to Palms Resort's weekly theme nights.

Aside from Indian Night, Paupau Bar & Terrace treats its guests to Shabu-Shabu Night on Mondays and Tuesdays, Mexican Night every Wednesday, Seafood Night on Fridays, and Chinese Night every Saturday.

FOR RESERVATIONS
Tel: 322-3311

For Indian Night, Lustre said Palms Resort will be serving authentic Indian food prepared by no less than executive sous chef Habib Akbar, who has been cooking up the island's best South Asian fare since 1987.

Last night, Akbar and his staff prepared traditional Indian dishes like chicken tandori, lamb and beef curry, Indian rice, lentil beans, and grilled spicy beef and chicken.

To wash it all down, Akbar gave guests a choice of iced tea, sodas, and Indian Night specialty Mazala Indian Tea. For dessert, sweet tooth's got a sampling of rice pudding, banana bread, and carrot curry, which interestingly, like the world-famous curry, originate from India.

The executive sous chef said the menu of Indian Night would be different next week and every week after that.

Akbar, who hails from Lahore, Pakistan, said Indian food is unique because of its heavy reliance on vegetables and a variety of spices and herbs, which makes the cuisine one of the healthiest in the world.

He added that Indian cuisine has become quite popular on Saipan the past few years. Akbar said aside from tourists, locals have also developed a liking to dishes from South Asia and he feels confident that Indian Night will be great addition to Palms Resort's expanding offerings.

Lustre, for her part, is confident that Indian Night, along with its other theme nights, will help Palms Resort capture the evening dine-out market.

Indian Night costs $25 for adult diners and $12.50 for children. It is from 6pm to 9pm at the Paupau Bar & Terrace, which comfortably sits 150 guests.

For reservations, call Palms Resort's food and beverage department at 322-3311. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

We'll fill you up twice!

Free McDonald's® Cheeseburger with every $20 Mobil gas purchase!

Get a coupon for a FREE McDonald's Cheeseburger every time you gas up $20 worth of Synergy gas from December 4 to December 31, 2009!

Try McDonald's new Angus Third Pounder* Value Meals and receive $1 off at Mobil with every $15 gas purchase, while supplies last. Choose your favorite Angus Third Pounder: Deluxe, Mushroom & Swiss, or Bacon & Cheese.

It's fuel for the tank AND your tummy!

For everyday on the road, get everyday Smiles at Mobil.

i'm lovin' it

Offer good for a limited time, while supplies last. McDonald's Cheeseburger Coupon valid only with Mobil gas receipt attached, at any Saipan McDonald's restaurant from December 4, 2009 to January 31, 2010. Limit one Cheeseburger per coupon, per customer, per visit. Not valid with any other McDonald's offer, Mobil $1 Off Discount Coupon valid from December 4 to January 31, 2010. Customer must purchase $15 worth of fuel to use the $1 discount offer. Fleet card and Pay at the Pump transactions are not eligible for this promotion. See Saipan Mobil stations or call toll-free hotline for details.

*Weight before cooking at least 5.33 ozs. (151.1 gms)

Mobil
We're drivers too.

Call our toll-free hotline at 1-866-486-7751 Monday thru Friday from 10am to 7pm for more details.

'Principals need access to funds for emergencies'

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@yahoo.com
REPORTER

One of the Public School System's longest-serving administrators disclosed yesterday that direct access to available funds for emergency school needs continues to challenge principals in all levels.

Hopwood Principal Jonas Barcinas told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday this lack of access to available funds prevents him from making immediate improvements at his school.

"One thing that seems to be a huge challenge for me as an administrator is the accessing of funds that I can use immediately for school improvement. It deters me from making things happen or become a reality in an immediate manner," he said.

The Education Commissioner is the expenditure authority for all local funds appropriated for public schools. For federal grants, the expenditure authority is either the CNMI governor or the commissioner.

"Yes, the support from central office is there. The COE is truly supportive of all schools and she finds ways to make sure that all schools are provided with their requests and more," Barcinas said.

But access to available funds will put things in perspective, he added.

"This doesn't mean that we are not getting the funds; what I am trying to say is the accessibility to use the funds immediately for any emergency or for school improvement. I understand the protocols and other policies that bind the processing but if this can be empowered to the schools, an overnight progress at the school level will happen. Then the school will move forward in an expeditious manner," he said.

Among the areas in Hopwood that Barcinas thinks need immediate resolution are the lack of textbooks, which he said could be addressed if funds are more easily accessed by schools.

"I only need to procure some textbooks that students can bring home so they can have the time to sit with their parents to work on the problems that they may be having trouble with," he said.

For years, Barcinas said, the school only had a certain amount of textbooks in each classroom and it becomes a concern for students and parents when students can't bring the books home due to the shortage.

"This can be resolved and with the federal dollars coming in, that will be one of the top priorities to be addressed. We would like to purchase more textbooks so students will be able to bring them home, or perhaps the e-book software that students can use with their computer or laptops," he said.

Barcinas said another instructional trend they are gearing up for are e-books because he wants Hopwood students to be competitive in the 21st century.

"These can be purchased or procured anytime… but if the funds are not available on hand, it prolongs the dream to equip the school with the necessary instructional materials and equipment, the renovation and maintenance of school facilities, and the replacement and construction of other infrastructure to make schools safe and orderly for student learning," he said.

Requirements for police cadet applicants

The Department of Public Safety's Personnel Office would like to inform the applicants for the upcoming 20th Police Academy to be prepared.

All applicants must have the equivalent of an English Level of 101. If they are not sure, they need to make arrangements with the Northern Marianas College and schedule themselves for the English Placement Test Schedule. There is a $25 fee for the placement test that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday to Friday, 8:30am – 4pm).

Applicants who are certified by the Office of Personnel Management are required to undergo the following requirements:

■ Intensive special background check: Local and federal

■ English Placement Test: Applicant must be at or above the 101 level for the NMC English Placement Test

■ Agility test conducted by the DPS Academy physical fitness instructor.

■ Interview process by DPS Interview Committee

■ Drug test

NMC English Placement Test Schedule

■ Dec. 16, 2009, 1pm – 4pm, Room D-1

■ Dec. 17, 2009, 5pm – 8pm, Room D-1

All applicants must meet the DPS pre-admission requirements in order to become a police cadet. For more information, contact Rose Dela Cruz at the DPS Personnel Office at 664-9024. ***(DPS)***

SUBMARINE TOUR
Local Promotion
Promo extended until Dec. 31
1 Child FREE with 1 paying adult
Adult $35 (12-up)
Additional Child $25 (6-11 years old)
Additional Child $10 (2-5 years old)
Regular price
$89 Adult
$51 Child
DEEPSTAR SUBMARINE
Please call 322-7746/8 for reservation
PACIFIC SUBSEA SAIPAN, INC.
* Every child receives 1 FREE original balloon

Cellular PRO
www.cellularpro.net (670) 234-2776
Weekend Sale!
Dec. 4 - Dec. 5, 2009
20% OFF ACCESSORIES
$10 FREE Cell Card with phone purchase!
Motorola Entice $199 CDMA
Samsung TwoStep $179 CDMA
Audiovox 6700 $149 CDMA
LG Chocolate 2 $129 CDMA
LG Chocolate $99 CDMA
Kyocera Neo $99 CDMA
Nokia 6205 $99 CDMA
LG vx5500 $99 CDMA
Samsung Axle $79 CDMA
Samsung Wafer $79 CDMA
Samsung Smooth $79 CDMA
LG vx5300 $59 CDMA

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 4, 1998

Health chief argues for bigger hospital

Health Secretary Joseph K. Villagomez yesterday said the need for a bigger hospital becomes obvious with the rise in the population of the CNMI. A plan to construct a new Department of Health building has been in the pipeline, and he hopes that the government will make it a priority. A meeting has been set for next week to discuss the project, he said. "It's part of the CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) and is one of the top 20 projects. I hope that it will go easily. We're meeting next week to finalize the projects," he said.

Deficit outstrips savings

The financially-troubled government is expecting to save some $15 million from a new austerity package it plans to put in place in anticipation of further drop in revenue collections, but the amount is not enough to cover the 13.4 percent reduction in FY 99 spending level. According to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, more belt-tightening will have to be done in order to stay within the revised appropriation package of $216.75 million for the current fiscal year. "Our projection is a $32 million decline in collections...so we have to find ways where to reduce," Tenorio said in an interview, "So far we cannot meet the $32 million," he added, in justifying a new package of cost-cutting steps his administration is considering to cope with declining revenues and ballooning deficit.

Dec. 4, 2000

'Settle retroactive pay'

Amid potential deadlock on budget discussion between the House and the Senate, a lawmaker appealed to his colleagues on Friday to appropriate money for payment of the so-called retroactive salary increase for government employees. Rep. Jesus T. Attao said this is the time to settle the overdue compensation of these employees who have been awaiting the benefits for nearly 10 years. Public Law 7-31 was enacted in 1991 to give government employees a 14 percent across-the-board salary hike, but many of them have yet to receive the raise until now due to financial difficulties confronting the CNMI and alleged politicizing of the issue by the previous administrations.

NMHC backs housing project on Rota

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors has thrown support to a housing project on Rota which seeks to build a 30-unit housing subdivision in Sinapalo village. In a letter addressed to Rep. William S. Torres, NMHC Manager Diana P. Crisostimo said the planning and preparation contained in the project proposal submitted by Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona has impressed the NMHC Board of Directors which, in turn, vowed to support its completion. However, Ms. Crisostimo pointed out that existing regulations, initially crafted for a similar project on Tinian, only allow a maximum of 24 dwelling units for a housing project due to the lack of sewer system on the island.

Dec. 4, 2001

Banks resilient amid crisis

While economic indicators point to flat growth, the Commonwealth's half-a-billion dollar banking industry is inching its way to the $700 million-mark, indicating a strong financial infrastructure in the Northern Marianas. Bank assets registered consistent growth in each of the three quarters this year reaching $691.2 million as of end-September 2001 up from the previous quarter figure of $690 million in the second quarter of 2000. Deposits totaled $612.8 million in the third quarter of 2001, higher by about $2.3 million from the quarter-ago's $610.5 million. In the second quarter, total bank deposits amounted to $610.5 million, inching upwards from the previous period's $601.2 million.

CUC to lose $7.6M from utility rate ceiling

If the Legislature pushes through with the bill setting a ceiling on utility rates in the CNMI, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would lose more than $7.6 million per year in revenue. Not only that but CUC would also lose the flexibility to adjust rates to compensate for fuel price increases and could possibly lose out on future Capital Improvement Project funding and grants. These were all pointed out by CUC officials during yesterday's public hearing held by the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication on Senate Bill 12-115. The committee also deliberated on Senate Bill 12-122, which seeks to lower the water rates for local farmers.

Target: Make the CNMI 'junk car-free' in 2010

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A long-delayed program to free the islands of junk cars will finally move forward in the next few weeks after the Zoning Board committed to enforce an intensive drive against junk vehicles, estimated at over 18,000 at present.

Zoning administrator Victor Barrett told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that the "zero tolerance" campaign against junk vehicles will start on Jan. 1, 2010.

Zoning will be collaborating with the island's salvage companies and the Department of Public Safety to enforce the project.

Under the agreement, at least four salvage companies—all approved by the Division and Environmental Quality—have agreed to tow the junk vehicles free of charge after DPS declares a junk vehicle a danger to safety.

"We will ask these salvage companies to be approved by DEQ and will assign the cars to them. They will come and pick them up for scrap or recycling but they have to incur the cost of pickup and disposal of all the parts," Barrett said, adding that Zoning has no storage place for these junk vehicles.

Barrett said the agency would not incur any costs from this campaign as the salvage companies will shoulder all expenses.

Many of the estimated 18,000 junk vehicles on Saipan are believed to be in Chalan Kanoa.

The "Zero Tolerance on Junk Cars" campaign will start on main roads: Beach Road, Middle Road, and Back Road. After the major thoroughfares, the search will expand to villages and communities.

'Scare tourists away'

"There is so much junk and decay in public view that I fear we are scaring away tourists and investors just when we need them most," Barrett said.

Chalan Kanoa, for example, is littered with junk cars, but it is going to take awhile to get to all of them unless a big salvage operation is interested.

"I fear we are going to overwhelm the limited capacity of the island's few qualified companies. We are going to focus on the main island roads first. Now is the time to act. We will need the support of the community and businesses alike," Barrett said.

Barrett said they will post bright orange violation notices on vehicles that meet at least three criteria: the model year must be at least three years old; must be extensively damaged; must be apparently inoperable; or must have a "fair market value" equal only to the approximate value of the scrap in it.

Zoning officers will provide on the notice a date by which junk car must be removed—usually 28 days—but in cases where the vehicle is in the public right of way and could be a danger to pedestrians or the free flow of traffic or hamper access to public utilities, it could be less.

However, if the vehicle has a license plate or a VIN number, Zoning will attempt to get the owner's information from the Department of Motor Vehicles and notify them by mail. If they can't find the owner or do not get a response, the vehicle will be towed away and properly disposed of.

The Zoning Office will be publishing a notice in the papers asking local companies to register as approved salvage operators.

Junk vehicles may include automobiles, motorcycles, trucks, buses, motorized recreational vehicles, boats, campers, travel trailers, boat trailers, utility trailers, or other similar devices capable of moving or being moved on public right-of-way, and will also include parts.

Mission

Barrett said this program is part of the agency's mission to eliminate the effects of the accumulation of damaged and inoperable vehicles, which create blight, depress property values, generate health hazards, contribute to injury, damage the environment, provide breeding areas for pests such as rodents, hornets and mosquitoes, and attract illegal dumping of other solid waste and hazardous substances.

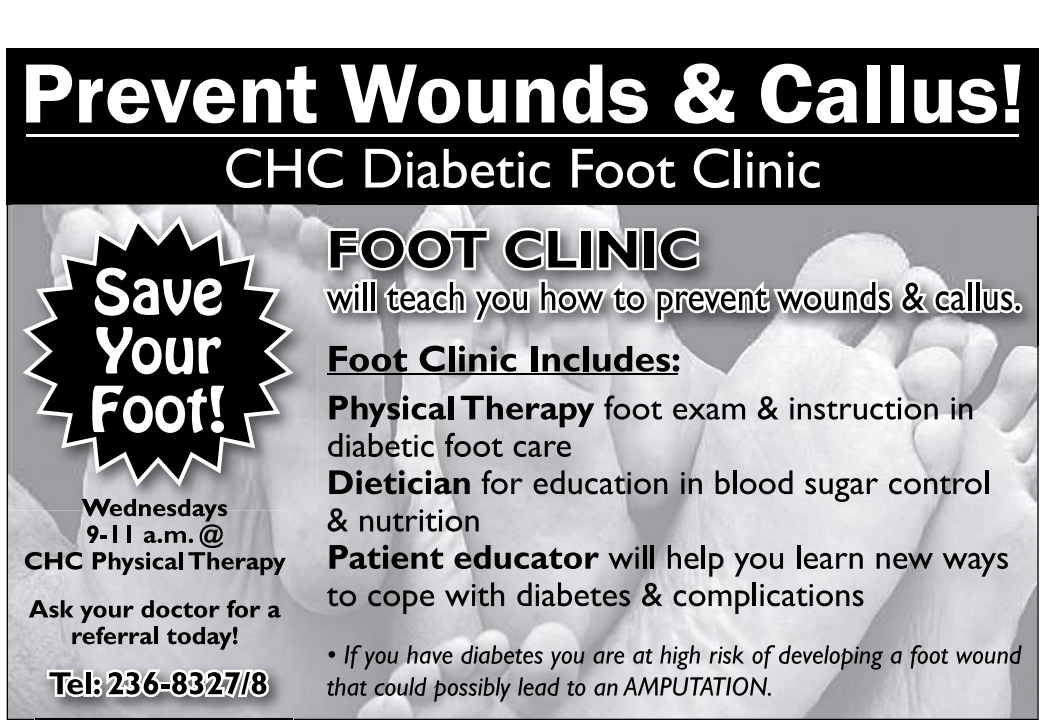
Barrett pointed out that all landowners have the right to the full use and enjoyment of their property, but junk vehicles left on the roadside or on private property visible from the street are a clear example of where an individual's actions significantly infringe on the use and enjoyment rights of adjacent landowners.

The Zoning Office, he said, is authorized to address such nuisance.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

This junk car is located on the road going to the Micro Beach, near the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Teamwork and dedication has brought you here.
Congratulations on your 37th Anniversary.
Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. applauds PDI as they celebrate 37 Years of service in the Marianas.
For every day on the road, get everyday Smiles at Mobil.
Mobil. We're drivers too.
Mobil
We're drivers too.


Prevent Wounds & Callus!
CHC Diabetic Foot Clinic
Save Your Foot!
Wednesdays
9-11 a.m. @
CHC Physical Therapy
Ask your doctor for a referral today!
Tel: 236-8327/8
FOOT CLINIC
will teach you how to prevent wounds & callus.
Foot Clinic Includes:
Physical Therapy foot exam & instruction in diabetic foot care
Dietician for education in blood sugar control & nutrition
Patient educator will help you learn new ways to cope with diabetes & complications
• If you have diabetes you are at high risk of developing a foot wound that could possibly lead to an AMPUTATION.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 290

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Obama's big bet

Even as President Obama announced an escalation of the war in Afghanistan, he focused on plans for getting out. At the same time that he ordered an additional 30,000 U.S. soldiers and Marines to the front, he said he would start bringing them home in July 2011. And while assuring neighboring Pakistan of America's long-term commitment to South Asia, he also sought to reassure Americans that there are limits to U.S. military involvement in the region.

We appreciate the president's rhetorical prowess. Tuesday's speech was clear and cogent. Yet we can't help but wonder if he will be able to keep so many seemingly contradictory promises made to so many different audiences. We understand that Obama inherited a neglected war and was presented with an array of bad choices, and we certainly hope he is making the right decision to double down in Afghanistan. But frankly, we have grave misgivings about the cost and likelihood of success.

To his credit, Obama offered clear answers to questions the country has long been asking: The goal in Afghanistan, he said, is to deny al-Qaida a haven, reverse the Taliban's momentum and prevent it from overthrowing the national government. The strategy is to deploy troops to target the insurgency and protect cities while building up the Afghan military and government—"nation-building," without the scary name, in a country that has studiously resisted previous attempts by outsiders to forge a central state. The cost will be an additional $30 billion next year, and more after that. The end game: "to hasten the day when our troops will leave."

Obama argued that to leave Afghanistan now would be to relinquish it to al-Qaida and its allies, and that to maintain current troop levels would be to "muddle through" while allowing the Taliban to continue gaining ground. He also said the open-ended escalation advocated by conservatives would cost too much and go beyond what we need to secure our national interests. On that point, he is certainly right.

The president wrapped his decision-making in the loftiest of American values, citing America's historic "special burden in global affairs" and arguing that the U.S. sends its troops abroad to fight oppression and liberate people rather than to dominate them. But that distinction may well be lost on Afghans witnessing yet another wave of foreign soldiers streaming into their country.

"Right makes might," Obama said, and we sincerely hope he's correct. He also said—and this part seems indisputable—that "none of this will be easy." We believe him when says he is committed to protecting American security. It's the means that worry us. The last thing we want is to find ourselves several years from now leaving an Afghanistan just as troubled as it is today, with little to show for our dead and our dollars.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Concluding unscientific postscript 5: Single on Saipan

Editor's Note: Jaime Vergara has been a regular contributor to the Opinion page of the Saipan Tribune *and this week's series will be his last this year.*

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Itinerant Methodist clergy has a traditional four-year appointment turn around. The first year, pastor gets to know the flock (what an archaic image). Second year, the flock gets to know the shepherd; the third year is the honeymoon, and the fourth year marks the lovers' spat and parting of ways. On Saipan, we skipped the honeymoon. After the third year, I segued from UMC to PSS for the hormone-raging gonads of its puberty brigade.

On an island steeped in social relatedness, personal behavior, particularly of those holding leadership functions, have to be unblemished, or are adept at hiding things under the rug. My personality was professionally suspected to be bipolar, so my psyche was at odds with religious morals, social etiquette, and cultural ethics.

Let me lay out some background. INHS60 celebrates its golden anniversary next year, and so the traffic of catching up has been heavy. It is still true, as it was when we parted, that the girls remain mysterious and complex, and boys are still single-minded. Honesty concedes that I and most of my peers are crotch-centered male chauvinist pigs! We either gyrated with Elvis the pelvis, or crooned with Pat Boone, writing love letters on the sand, but the ultimate goal was the same: how to bed a bird in flight!

Also, discovering on my first trip to the CNMI in '89 that Little Boy, which devastated Hiroshima, was first assembled on Tinian on the hour I was born in Central Luzon got me to take the opposite of my twin brother's power of mass destruction, in substance and in style, but humbly acknowledged that within myself, I carry also, and at once, the seeds and the means of my own destruction as well as transformation.

Coming to Saipan in '98, I was immediately introduced to the phrase, "Everyone is single on Saipan," particularly in the Filipino community. The Philippines is one of two nations in the world (the other is Malta) *sans* divorce laws. Consequently, when married contract workers on extended separation from their connubial partners develop new liaisons at a distance, they develop a *modus vivendi* with their spouses, and maintain relationships of attrition, a condition used as a favorite target of preachifying moralists.

Chinese businessmen in the Philippines have been known to have families where they conduct their trade. In the tradition of the *gui fei* (favored concubine) and *xiao laopo* (little wife, as opposed to the *ta laopo,* the primary wife), this seems acceptable as long as all are adequately supported; two friends here on Saipan are married to investors who also have families in cities along the coast of China Sea. Romanticized in Pearl Buck's Pulitzer winning novel, *The Good Earth*, this tradition helps illuminate the forms of sexual liaisons adopted on Saipan, particularly of former garment factory ladies who refuse repatriation back to their homes of origin and have decided to hang out awhile.

Sex may be taboo in discourse to many cultures, but not necessarily in practice. We will concede that both are taboo to Victorian England, and most of the Eastern seaboard of the USA. However, much of L.A. and media-saturated urban centers have glamorized sex, so much so that if one walked to the DFS Galleria in Garapan, one gets the notion that the display of pulchritude in its colorful billboards is an invitation to hedonize the senses in self-indulgence, self-satisfaction, and self-gratification, for the viewer and the displayed!

Not so in ancient Chamorro practice, despite the fig leaves! Depictions of island life are devoid of false modesty and malice. Prudishness was an alien characteristic. Semi-nude was just *au naturel,* period. Atmospheric temperature only required scant cover.

Early this year, I did a series on the House of Horus, and for two months I became the Zhong Guo's *huahua gonzi,* the Hangkuk's *param dongi,* and the Pinoy's *palikero*—a flirt in the manner of a Don Juan, to do the job. (And may I add, with the flair of male chauvinism, that the ladies who aided my applied research uttered no complaint!) Everyone might be single on Saipan, but as Garapan says, no one has to be single on Saipan!

What I learned from the Sino ladies of the night is the ease by which they keep the distance between the commerce of the flesh, and the comfort of the heart. The transaction of the flesh is rather clinically objective. The ladies are wily and many Dicks make arrangements before departing to return on as much as quarterly visits from Japan, Korea, Guam and Hawaii. Sharing the same detachment, real boyfriends, sometimes husbands, dutifully and patiently wait on the wings during those visits. (This, our ICE

See CONCLUDING on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Holiday stress?

By ED STEPHENS

Ed is a pilot, economist, and writer. He holds a degree in economics from UCLA and is a former U.S. naval officer. His column runs every Friday. Visit Ed at TropicalEd.com and SaipanBlog.com.

I'm on vacation, snugged into a warm nook on a cold morning, and this is one of the very few times I get to travel and have my wife with me. It's an extended holiday trip, and both of us have the same thought: We're very lucky this year, because many of our friends on Saipan are going to spend the holidays separated from their families.

Such a thing, by the way, is inconceivable to the average mainland American mind. Most Americans have never worked overseas, and have no idea how most of the world has to struggle to subsist, which, for many workers, entails yearlong (or more) separation from families.

And it's not just Saipan's work force that ensures family separation, of course. Saipan's esteemed Echo Company came to mind in recent years during their deployments. In the military, family separation is part of life, but that's no longer a typical element of American society.

And when I worked in the commercial fishing fleet, flying helicopters from ships on the high seas (high adventure, that!) we'd be out for up to six months at a time. I had it easy, because the pilots were flown home between voyages, but the seamen only got home once a year. Birthdays and holidays were marked at sea, in those unnervingly blank, blue expanses you see on a globe, and hopefully you had good shipmates for such occasions; I always did, and I spent my time with the Filipino clique, since they are the world's best shipmates.

In fact, the most glaring contrast I can think of is the environment of those fishing ships (a very hard, uncertain, and dangerous life) vs. the safe and sassy confines of my office days in the mainland (a very soft, steady and safe life). But if you ask me who was happier, my shipmates, or the people I knew in corporate life, the answer is easy: Despite their hard lives my shipmates were far more happy, while, by contrast, I recall that many of the drones from my old corporate days were merely semi-animated paragraphs out of my college "abnormal psyche" text.

Soft and safe does not make a man happy, and chasing nothing but comfort and ease means that one winds up having a marshmallow for a soul. These types quickly feel helpless if their well-ordered and synthetic worlds start to shed pieces. You can't trust such men; they lack the iron in the gut necessary for integrity.

Meanwhile, while many of the world's real workers, on Saipan and beyond, face another holiday season apart from their families, the sob sister media in the West's richest areas will lament the woes of "Holiday Stress" to include, notably, the stress of "dealing with family." It's a yearly theme. I see it in newspapers. I hear it on radio. I overhear it on TVs.

In other words, there they sit, all together, snugged safe and sound in their cozy homes, and yet they can't stand each other!

And I neglected to mention the stress of buying gifts. I have heard reports of shoppers angered at the ordeals of buying big screen TVs as they fight the crowds during sales. Oh, the unfairness of it all. Oh, the sheer unholy tragedy of it all. I think the entire world should hold a candle light vigil and stand in spiritual solidarity with the big screen television buyers, these noble victims of the holiday season. Maybe they should get a discount on the co-payments for their meds. Or free therapy. Or a self-esteem tune up. Or something.

And you wonder why I married "outside my culture"? It's because I'm not nearly crazy enough for mine.

Holiday stress? I'd rather have to miss a family worth missing than not miss a family not worth missing. Of course, I'd prefer to not miss a family worth missing.

As lousy as it is to be separated from one's family during the holidays, there are worse fates out there. Far worse; and money can't cure them. Count your blessings, because the people with the blessings don't seem to be able to count at all.

That hits the spot

By JO-ANN ARMAO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

I'm putting aside my skepticism of government trying to solve all of our social ills to cheer a bill that would eliminate BLARINGLY LOUD television commercials.

The Commercial Advertisement Loudness Mitigation Act (CALM), sponsored by Rep. Anna G. Eshoo, D-Calif., would prevent television advertisements from playing at a volume noticeably above the programs during which they air. The bill is headed to the floor for consideration by the full House; Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., is said to be ready to introduce a similar measure in the Senate.

Yes, I know how to push "mute," and I know I can always leave the room or record programs and simply fast-forward through the commercials. But I don't see why I — or millions of other viewers — should have to suffer even one second of these obnoxious ads (which are also harmful to hearing). Why should an outside entity be able to override the volume I chose for my TV? In her 17 years in the House, Eshoo says, the only other bill she has carried that has even come close to having this much support was the "do not call" telemarketing list.

Excerpted from The Post's opinion blog. The writer is a member of The Washington Post's editorial page staff.

What is Article 12 protecting?

By EFREN CAMACHO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

To summarize, Section 4: Persons of Northern Marianas Descent under Article XII of the constitution says that " A person of Northern Marianas descent is someone who is a citizen or national of the United States and who is at least one-quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof or an adopted child of a person of Northern Marianas descent if adopted under the age of eighteen years.

Lets focus our discussion on the word adoption and in particular a child from a non-NMD person. The section-by-section analysis of the Constitution states that a child if adopted while under the age of 18 will automatically become a person of Northern Marianas descent if the adopting parents are NMD. The section-by-section analysis says, "It is intended that the adopted child shall have the same position with respect to Northern Marianas descent as would a natural child."

What this means is a child under the age of 18 from, say, China or Bolivia or from any other parts of the world who gets adopted by 100 percent NMD parents becomes a 100 percent NMD. Obviously since the adopted child is not from an NMD person, he or she has no NMD blood line. Yet, he or she is 100 percent NMD and can thus own land, fee simple.

However, a child born from a mixed marriage couple of 50 percent NMD and 0 percent NMD will only be 25 percent NMD. Why is this when a child as we see from above of non-NMD but by being adopted by 100 percent NMD parents is 100 percent NMD? The child from one of the parent being 50 percent blood line is reduced to 25 percent while a child with absolutely no blood line is 100 percent NMD.

The adopted child from above example has more rights than a child from a 50 percent blood line. Is this what we want? This, however, is Article XII. What is it protecting?

Efren Camacho is the chairman of the Citizens for Change of Article 12.

Letters to the Editor

Voting irregularities?

This is not about whom you voted for or who won or will win; it is about the voting process being conducted fairly and objectively for all the candidates and citizens. People are always calling me when there is a tough subject because they know the opinion haters will attack them but someone has to do it. I have been bombarded with calls from people asking me to say something about voting irregularities. At the top of the complaints I'm hearing are the people who were literally "blacklisted." These people voted in the general election but when they came to vote in the runoff there was a black line through their name. The rationale was that they are convicted felons. The problem is that these people were allowed to influence the general election, where some people won their seats in office by a few votes. To refuse them the opportunity to vote in the runoff really invalidates the general election where they voted. Voters who were included in the general election should never be denied the same right in the runoff.

Another problem is the contested votes in the Northern Islands mayoral race. From the reports I'm getting, there are considerable votes being scrutinized by the courts to determine who will be the mayor of the Northern Islands. Should these votes be deemed void, not only will the decision affect the Northern Islands' mayoral race, it could also have a cascade or domino effect rippling back to the general election. Votes that have been cast, counted and committed to the certification of the election should never be taken out of the process unless you are going to re-do the voting process.

The final concern that I'm getting is from people on the mainland who voted in the general election but did not get a ballot for the runoff. I know the rationale that has been given is they should have checked a box requesting for a runoff ballot but that is a very poor excuse for not sending an eligible voter their ballot, especially when they voted in the general election. The other complaint coming from mainland voters is the short time frame they were given and the unnecessary need for a notary public, which costs bucks in the mainland. The time frame was too short for these voters and a challenge for the mail delivery, which starts to pick up during the Thanksgiving holidays until Christmas. The Election Commission should only need the same thing they required us when we voted in the CNMI: a copy of one's voter's registration or a picture ID. It is overkill and ridiculous to send voters in the mainland through these unnecessary measures and additional financial cost. Voters who received a ballot for the general election should automatically get a ballot for the runoff and they should only need the same proof required of other voters—that's common sense and my opinion.

There is little more that I can say about these voting irregularities because it is obvious that "Houston, we have a problem." I do know that what we do in the general election should be repeated in the exact same way for the runoff. I leave it up to people who stand to win or lose and the courts to determine the final outcome but one thing is true: We have some serious voting irregularities that need to be addressed.

Ambrose M. Bennett
Kagman, Saipan

Permanent status

The only solution to keep the needed guest workers in the NMI is to give the nonresidents permanent status. I appeal to all of the nonresidents and their employers to support permanent status for the nonresidents. You can sign the petition online or one of our written copies being circulated on Saipan. Employers and residents are also invited to sign the petition.

Itos Feliciano
President, Human Dignity Movement

CONCLUDING

From Page 10

men might bear in mind when they start sniffing after human trafficking, not to equate the trade with the flourishing flesh trade widely patronized on island!)

Compare this to the Hispanized pole dancer who will tell you a sob story of her bad luck and misfortune that drove her to be a victim, and you have a difference of business practice and delivery of service. A friend decried her elderly father being caught *in flagrante delicto* with the domestic help, and I could not console her with the suggestion that she might be thankful her father is still up to the challenge! In my youth, target practice was not about BB guns but about the sport of predatory-ing girls, similar to the Greek-Roman practice of "sowing wild oats before settling." It is shocking to recall the prejudices of our youth but it also clears the cobwebs of pretensions in our minds.

A Saipan friend in the social assistance game married one of his wards, and in a crisis of trust and confidence, when his spouse accused him of carrying on with one of his clients, he exclaimed with airs of self-righteousness: "I do not bed people I help!" Her pointed and accurate retort: "You bedded me!" Touché!

The immense journey from womb to tomb is laced with the reality of sex. It is in the em-body-ment of the human soul that humanity journeys on. Let us not leave the acronym of the French Connection United Kingdom to blindside us with guilt. FunX, in Garapan and elsewhere, is a four letter word. Aircon it. Follow under cover kuno, neh!?! Enjoy!

Now, about Tiger Woods…let's not go there!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲86° ▼78

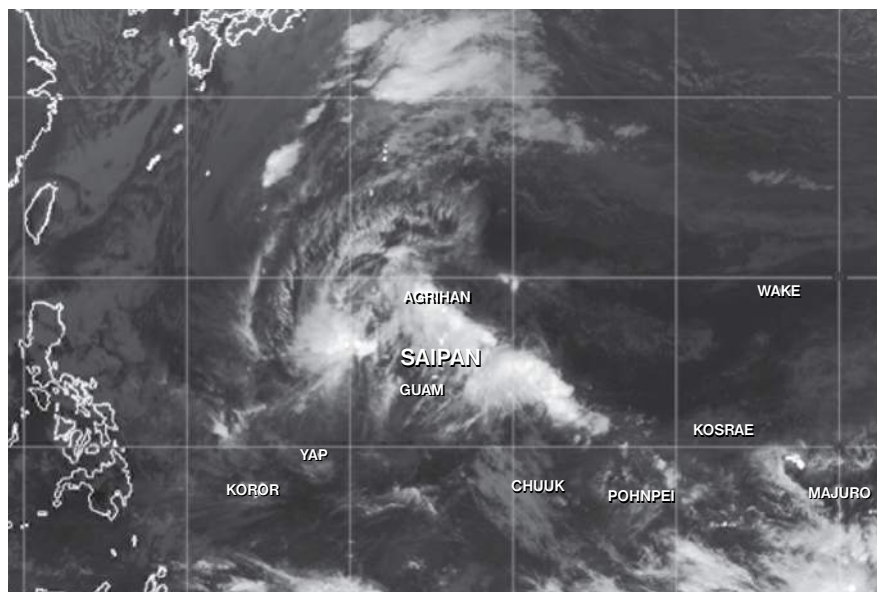
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲84	▼76
Palau	Showers	▲88	▼78
Yap	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Rain	▲88	▼79
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲89	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼76

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲63	▼55
Beijing	Cloudy	▲33	▼21
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼57
Honolulu	Showers	▲79	▼66
London	Cloudy	▲48	▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼46
Manila	Sunny	▲85	▼73
Melbourne	Partly Sunny	▲71	▼51
Miami	Cloudy	▲84	▼68
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲48	▼35
Osaka	Cloudy	▲54	▼40
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲41	▼34
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲54	▼38
Rome	Rain	▲53	▼41
Salem	Cloudy	▲45	▼30
San Francisco	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼46
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲48	▼22
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲53	▼41
Washington, DC	Partly Sunny	▲48	▼34

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00 THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Tropical depression 26W (Nida) is centered near 22N134E moving northwest at 3 mph with maximum sustained winds of 30 mph. Extensive clouds along with patchy rain and a few thunderstorms are north of a line from 21N130E to 19N133E to 25N142E. For more information on tropical depression 26W see bulletins issued by the JTWC under WMO header WPTN31 PGTW and advisories issued by the National Weather Service under WMO header WPTQ31 PGUM. A tropical disturbance west of Saipan is near 15N141E with a trough eastward to 13N150E then southeastward to 2N170E then eastward beyond 180 at 2N. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across the Mariana Islands are in an area from 21N141E to 10N158E to 16N136E back to 21N141E. Convergent west winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms near the equator south of a line from 2N1332E to 2N141E and south of 5N from 155E eastward to beyond 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

2:44	AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
10:01	AM	Today	High Tide:	2.1 Feet
3:15	PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet
7:54	PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Saturday	6:29 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Monday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Tuesday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	7:44 AM	8:11 PM
Saturday	8:49 AM	9:09 PM
Sunday	9:52 AM	10:02 PM
Monday	10:51 AM	10:50 PM
Tuesday	11:47 AM	11:34 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 1, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:45am	5:35am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW287	6:00am	7:30pm	Daily via NRT

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
NW297	4:45pm	7:30pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	13:30am+1	1, 5 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:30am	4:05am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:20am	2:50am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:20am	4:05am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW288	12:05pm	1:20am+1	Daily via NRT

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW298	10:05pm	2:50pm	Daily
NW288	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	4, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1 via ICN	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1 via GUM	1, 3, 5, 6, 7
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:20pm	4 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2,4,6,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

EMO warns of heavy rainfall and flooding

Heavy rainfall is possible across the Marianas up to late this weekend, causing floods in low-lying areas, according to the Emergency Management Office.

Based on data received from the National Weather Service in Guam, fresh to strong winds associated with a tropical disturbance west of the Marinas is generating seas in excess of 9 feet.

There will be much more rain falling in the CNMI and residents of Saipan, Tinian, and the Northern Islands of Agrihan, Alamagan, Pagan can expect a lot of rainfall this week to late this weekend

Also, maneuvering smaller vessels can be difficult under gusty winds, especially for inter-island voyages.

"Avoid venturing near exposed reefs and beaches, especially along eastern exposures, as rip currents can be life threatening," said the EMO.

Winds will be south to southwest the next couple of days then return to easterly trade wind flow with isolated embedded shower pattern by Saturday night.

Motorists and residents in low-lying areas are advised to take precautionary measures for ponds of water on roads, poor drainages, and possible debris. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Saipan mayor-elect forms transition team

Saipan mayor-elect Donald Glen Pangelinan Flores announced yesterday the formation of his Transition Team, composed of the following key individuals: Jeff Tomokane, Transition Committee chairman; Kimo Rosario, vice chairman; Sid Cabrera, Vic Pangelinan, and Henry Hofschneider, advisers. Flores said that various transition subcommittees have also been established and will be chaired by a few other appointed individuals. ***(PR)***

John Gonzales Live schedule

Dec. 9, 2009, Live on KSPN Ch. 2; replays on Dec. 13 & 14 (All from 7pm to 8 pm)

Topic: Inspiration and Success from 2009 PSS Education Day Awardees

■ Maria Ornes, MHS Teacher and 2009 Teacher of the Year Winner

■ Karen Borja, MHS Principal and 2009 Education Day Coordinator

■ Dr. Rita A. Sablan, PSS Commissioner

Text (285.META (6382)), call (287.4230), or e-mail johngonzales@pticom.com for questions or comments. ***(PR)***

Puengin Inetnon today

Puengin Inetnon will be held again today, Dec. 4, 2009, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot. Canton Restaurant, Lynn's BBQ, Fong's Bakery, Champ's Shave Ice, and Bali Fashion will be selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Library's Bookmobile will be available for the public to check out books. Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market. It will begin at 4:30pm and end at 10pm. Interested vendors can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for applications. ***(PR)***

Penny drive at Microl intersection today

The Criminal Justice Student Organization of NMC will hold another penny drive along the Microl Corporation intersection from 3pm to 5:30pm today, Dec. 4. Also, the hot lunch sale at $5 will be Kilili Beach, and not at the 13th Fishermen pavilion as announced earlier. ***(PR)***

Laser training exercises on FDM today

The Air Force will conduct laser training exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Dec. 4, from 7am to 1pm. The location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during the times and date indicated. ***(PR)***

Local Census manager to discuss job fair

Marianas Agupa, a Chamorro talk show program hosted by Glenn H. Manglona, will feature Census manager John Borja, on Dec. 5, 2009 Saturday, between 9:30am and 10:15am on Magic 100.3 FM. Borja will be discussing the job opportunities and job fair this weekend.

Vicente N. Santos, former vice chairman of the Northern Marianas Political Status Commission, will also be a featured guest that day to discuss key issues of the Covenant, the implication of the federal lawsuit that the CNMI lost in federal court, and the chances of renegotiating the relationship with United States. Internet streaming via www.magic100radio.com will be available. For more information, e-mail marianasagupa@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

DEQ sets monthly cleanup tomorrow

The Division of Environmental Quality cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at San Roque Beach in San Roque tomorrow, Dec, 5, 2009. If you would like to volunteer, meet with the group on Saturday at 8am at the back of San Roque Elementary School. Volunteers will split into groups and go north or south, cleaning the beach until 10am and break for drinks and then continue, if needed. For more information about volunteering, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

GUANGDONG HARDWARE

GUANGDONG MILEI? GUANGDONG BA ITO?

GOOD NEWS TO ALL TINIAN/ROTA CUSTOMERS:
To order just dial 288-2288, Payment can be made through credit card authorization, or cashier check, postal money order, traveler's check sent thru Freedom Air/ SN-5.

SPECTRUM: Christmas SPECIAL

SEMI-GLOSS INT. & EXT. LATEX $16.50/GAL | $54.99/4.25 GAL
FLAT INT. & EXT. LATEX (PRIMER) $12.50/GAL | $46.99/4.25 GAL
WATERBASE PRIMER $17.04/GAL | $76.99/4.25 GAL
GLOSS WHITE ENAMEL $18.79/GAL

PROMOTION:
FREE GIVEAWAY FOR EVERY PURCHASE OF PAINTS.
1) $100.00 & ABOVE: 2 SOAP HOLDER
2) $400.00 & ABOVE: SHOWER ROOM DOOR WORTH $132.00
3) $600.00 & ABOVE: 1 WATERCLOSET WORTH $178.00

THIN-SET MORTAR $9.00
TILE ADHESIVE HENRY 314 $38.00/PAIL
WATERCLOSET $86 & UP • SINK $33 & UP
NEW ARRIVAL OF CERAMIC TILES, 12"*12" $0.79/pc • 8"*12" $0.52/pc

OTHERS
CEMENT $6.60/BAG
DELIVERY CHARGE TO TINIAN-$3.00/BAG
HOLLOW BLOCKS (CMU) 4"-$0.55/pc • 6"-$0.65/pc • 8"-$0.75/pc
REBAR-$758.00/SHORT TON
GALVALUME ROOF TIN G26 FROM KOREA, BETTER QUALITY & RUST RESISTANCE
25%OFF FOR 2X8 UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR & TREATED
40%OFF FOR OVERSIZED AND DAMAGED MAHOGANY LUMBER

U.S. LUMBER
2X4X20 REGULAR: $6.60
2X4X20 TREATED: $11.30

UTILITY LUMBER REGULAR	UTILITY LUMBER TREATED
2X6X12 - $6.70	2X4X18 - $7.00
2X6X14 - $7.60	2X6X12 - $10.00
2X6X16 - $8.90	2X6X14 - $11.00
2X6X18 - $9.90	2X6X16 - $13.00
2X6X20 - $10.90	2X6X18 - $14.50
2X4X20 - $6.10	2X6X20 - $10.90

5/8" FLYFORM:	$24.80/PC
5/8" PHENOLIC FLYFORM:	$27.30/PC
WIRE MESH 7'*50':	$69.30
WIRE MESH 7'*100':	$123.30

15% TO 50% OFF ALL DAMAGED ITEMS!

CHEAPEST DEALER OF MAJOR CONSTRUCTION MATERIAL ON ISLAND!

Never satisfied until you are

P.O. BOX 501640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
TEL: (670) 288-2288/2289/6688
FAX: 288-4488
E-mail:gddc@pticom.com
Business hours:
Mon. to Sat. 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
AMERICAN EXPRESS MasterCard VISA

MICROL TOYOTA

SPECIALS OF THE WEEK

2003 VOLKSWAGEN NEW BEETLE 2DR
Stock: U09-045T • License: ABX-844
Mileage: 48440 • Auto • Green

Price: ~~$6,999~~
Reduced Price $5,999

USED CARS

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	TRANS.	MILEAGE	COLOR	LICENSE #	PRICE	REDUCED PRICE
TOYOTA VAN								
T06-05291L	2006	SIENNA CE	AUTO	124063	WHITE	ABY-919	12,599	
R09-016F	2004	SIENNA CE	AUTO	51237	RED	ADM-942	10,999	
OTHER CARS & TRUCKS								
U09-079P	2008	NISSAN FRONTIER PICK UP	AUTO	23179	SILVER	ACL-383	18,199	
U07-034T	2000	NISSAN MAXIMA GXE 4DR	AUTO	68648	WHITE	ACT-812	~~10,999~~	6,999
GM VAN								
GM6-027L	2006	CHEVY EXPRESS VAN 15-PAX	AUTO	106929	WHITE	BUS-1163	13,699	

WANTED

Looking at selling your vehicle, Microl is looking at purchasing used vehicles between 4 to 5 years of age and in good condition. If you are interested, please visit our Sales Department Monday thru Friday between 8:00 am to 3:00 pm.

MICROL TOYOTA
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Monday 8:00am to 5:00pm | Tuesday to Friday 8:00am to 4:00pm | Saturday & Sunday Closed
Telephone: 234-5911 | Fax: 234-6514 | www.microlsaipan.com

TOYOTA ACDelco

CHRISTMAS SALE!!!
DEC. 5, 2009 -JAN. 5, 2010
TOYS - 50%
CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR DECORATIONS - 25%
CARPETS - 15%
BEDROOM APPAREL - 20%
GARDEN TOOLS / ITEMS - 15%
CURTAINS & MATERIALS - 15%
KITCHENWARE - 20%
GIFT ITEMS - 25%
FURNITURES - 15%
KEVIN'S CORPORATION
dba Kevin's Department Store / Wholesale and Retail Store
PO Box 502592 CK Saipan, MP 96950 (Beside the Post Office)
Tel.: (670) 234-8866

Learn computer basics

The Northern Marianas College is offering short-term classes to interested individuals who wish to improve their computer application skills. The courses are facilitated by the Community Development Institute, a program under the Division of Community Programs and Services, COMPASS.

The classes, designed to improve individual knowledge and specific skills, are geared around actual workforce needs and experiences based on course surveys, community needs assessments, and interviews with employers.

The December/January schedule and course fees are listed below. For a more detailed description of each course, contact CDI at 234-5498 ext. 1005 or log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

How to Properly Use a Keyboard (Keyboarding)
Dec. 14-17, 2009
Schedule: Mon-Tues (5pm-8pm), Wed-Thurs (5pm-7pm)
Room: TBA
Fee: $70

Understanding Personal Computers and How They Work
Dec. 21-23, 2009 (5pm-7pm)
Room: TBA
Fee: $35

E-mail: The Best Way to Communicate
Dec. 29-30, 2009 (5pm-7pm)
Room: TBA
Fee: $25

How to Use Word Processing Applications
Jan. 4-8, 2010 (5pm-8pm)
Room: TBA
Fee: $90

How to Use Spreadsheet Applications
Jan. 11-15, 2010 (5pm-8pm)
Room: TBA
Fee: $90

Creating Digital Presentations
January 19-22 & 25, 2010 (5pm-8pm)
Room: TBA
Fee: $90

CDI will also be offering its Customer Service and Administrative Training Courses in January running into February. For a schedule of these classes, please log on to www.nmcnet.edu.

Interested individuals must register at least seven days prior to the first day of class. Certificates of competence will be awarded to registered students who complete all course requirements. Full payment is required for admission to a class.

To register or for information about these classes, visit the CDI Office in Building P on the NMC Campus in As Terlaje or call Les Ogumoro-Uludong at 234-5498 ext. 1010 or e-mail leso@nmcnet.edu. ***(NMC)***

2010 models have arrived!
KIA
KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise™
The New Kia Soul
A New Way To Roll.
UP TO 30 MPG**
Soul's cutting edge technology and inspiring design will define your personality. You will love the ample space, distinctive styling and extra flexibility that have been created to exceed your expectations.
The Kia Rio
A Car Powered by Passion.
UP TO 35 MPG**
Discover a smartly styled car that makes no compromises. You will get award winning construction and comprehensive safety features for complete peace of mind.
The 2010 Kia Forte
IN STOCK NOW!
2009 MODELS CLEARANCE
NISSAN | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Sentra | 9L68616 SOLD | White | $3,500.00
Altima Coupe | 9C188411 | Red | $3,500.00
Quest S | 9N1037 SOLD | Silver | $4,000.00
Murano SL | 9W1006 SOLD | Silver | $4,000.00
FORD | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Ranger XL | 9PA13734 | White | $2,500.00
Fusion SE | 9R137166 | Smoke | $3,000.00
HONDA | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Fit Sport | 9S05442 SOLD | Silver | $3,000.00
Civic LX | 9L015450 | Blue | $3,000.00
Civic Hybrid | 9S007352 | Gray | $3,500.00
Accord LXP | 8A10311 SOLD | Gold | $4,000.00
Odyssey EX | 9B017464 | White | $4,000.00
KIA | STOCK # | Color | Discount
Sedona LX | 86235463 | White | $3,500.00
Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU
SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM • SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. (670) 234-5562
Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last. **EPA Estimated hwy mpg.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday greetings go out to Jian Carlo Sales, who is celebrating his birthday today, Dec, 4. May you enjoy your special day and may the good Lord bless your with many more birthdays to come! Greetings come from Tatay and Nanay.

NMI residents can now call Kilili toll-free

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) announced yesterday that he has set up a toll-free number for constituents that will make getting in touch with their Delegate easier.

"In these times when trying to stretch a dollar is on everyone's mind, I felt it would be helpful to the people I represent if I made contacting their congressional office in Washington worry-free," explained Sablan.

The toll-free line, available from the Northern Marianas and throughout the United States, is 1-877-446-3465.

"I encourage all Northern Marianas residents to take advantage of this toll-free number and call me if you need any assistance or if you just want to say hello," invited Sablan. ***(PR)***

US Mint to launch CNMI quarter in Garapan

The U.S. Mint will officially launch the commemorative quarter for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater in Garapan on Dec. 10, 2009, at 9:30am.

After the ceremony U.S. Mint deputy director Andy Brunhart, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, first lady Josie Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy Enos will present a new Northern Mariana Islands quarter to more than 1,000 children in attendance who are 18 years old or younger.

In addition, the public also may exchange their currency for $10 rolls of Northern Mariana Islands quarters.

The Northern Mariana Islands quarter was released into

The reverse design of the commemorative quarter for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is by U.S. Mint sculptor-engraver Phebe Hemphill.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

circulation Nov. 30, 2009. It is the sixth—and final—coin in the United States Mint 2009 District of Columbia and U.S. Territories Quarters Program.

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan pushes the master control button sending the signal to begin casting the Northern Mariana Islands quarters at the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP) went to the U.S. Mint in Philadelphia last month to inspect the design of the new coin and to participate in striking the quarters. He toured the production floor with plant manager Marc Landry and met Phebe Hemphill, who sculpted the die used to cast the Northern Marianas quarter.

The design includes a large limestone latte, the supporting column of ancient indigenous Chamorro structures; a canoe of the indigenous Carolinians representing the people's seafaring skills across vast distances; and two white fairy tern birds flying overhead. A Carolinian *mwar* (head lei)—symbolic of the virtues of honor and respect—borders the bottom of the design near the inscription, *NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS*. ***(U.S. Mint)***

GLUSHKO'S ACADEMY OF PERMORMING ARTS
PRESENTS

Sleeping Beauty
& Concert of Ballet Stars

DECEMBER 4-6, 2009, PALMS RESORT SAIPAN

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30PM

SHOW BEGINS AT 7:00PM

EKATERINBURG'S BALLET (RUSSIA) • BRATISLAVA BALLET (CZECH REPUBLIC)
UNIVERSAL BALLET ACADEMY (SEOUL, KOREA) • SWANSEA BALLET RUSSE (IRELAND)
TAKAGI BALLET SCHOOL (TOKYO, JAPAN) • HOMURA BALLET (OSAKA, JAPAN)

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT ANY SHELL GAS STATION
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 483-6271

Family Night
DECEMBER 4 & 6, FRIDAY & SUNDAY
$10 CHILD • $15 ADULT
Featuring
GLUSHKO'S ACADEMY STUDENTS AND INTERNATIONAL BALLET STARS

Cocktail Show
(INCLUDES ONE DRINK)
DECEMBER 5, SATURDAY
$15 CHILD • $35 ADULT
Featuring
INTERNATIONAL BALLET STARS AND RAFFLES

CERTIFIED
Used Cars
1 YEAR FREE SERVICE WITH USED CAR PURCHASE

DEALS OF THE WEEK

2004 Nissan Sentra S
STOCK # 4L469224
$9,995.00*

2006 Nissan Quest S
STOCK # 6N100020
$18,995.00*

2005 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab 4x4
STOCK # 5C400451
$20,995.00*

SOLD

1995 Ford Ranger 4x4
STOCK # WPB32069
$4,500.00* (SOLD AS IS)

2005 Sportage 4WD
STOCK # 57126092
$13,995.00*

2001 Ford Crown Victoria
STOCK # 1X167270
$7,995.00* (SOLD AS IS)

2005 Ford Ranger XL
STOCK # 5PB04608
$10,495.00*

2005 Ford Escape Limited 4WD
STOCK # 5KB01594
$14,995.00*

SOLD

2005 Kia Rio Rio LX
STOCK # 86351975
$12,995.00*

2006 Kia Sorento LX 4x4
STOCK # 65643378
$14,995.00*

2007 Ford Fusion S
STOCK # 7R127179
$14,995.00*

2006 Ford Fusion SEL
STOCK # 6R196428
$16,995.00*

Henis Nedlic
Sales Consultant
Visit or call 234-5562

2008 Nissan Altima S Coupe
STOCK # 8C233203
$21,995.00*

2004 Nissan Maxima SE
STOCK # 4C920948
$18,995.00*

SHOWROOM HOURS: MON. – FRI. 8 AM – 6 PM
SAT. 8 AM - 12 NOON • TEL. 234-5562

Vehicle may not be exactly as shown • Some conditions apply • On approved credit • See dealer for details • While Supplies last.
* Vehicles Certified with 61 point inspection.

Joeten Motors
POWERED BY YOU

IN COURT BATTLE FOR A SINGLE VOTE

Wiseman disqualifies five NI voters, upholds two

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman has disqualified five challenged voters and upheld two in the ongoing court battle for a single vote in the Northern Islands mayoralty race.

Among the two voters Wiseman ruled as qualified voters is the Northern Islands mayor-elect Tobias Dela Cruz Aldan.

Wiseman determined five voters to be disqualified and had their votes struck.

Wiseman asked additional witnesses/voters to return on Monday at 9:30am for the continuation of the hearing.

Attorney Robert Torres, counsel for Aldan, told *Saipan Tribune* there is a pending issue for the court to rule on in relation to its plan to depart from procedure, which is to determine the qualification of voters first.

"The court has indicated its wishes to require open public disclosure of who they [witnesses] voted for and subject the voter to cross examination," Torres said.

The lawyer said they objected to this, citing the lack of precedent and the lack of authority.

Torres said this is an invasion of the privacy interest of the voters.

"The judge is reviewing the issue and is inviting briefs of the parties," he said.

Ramona Taisakan Rebuenog, a Northern Islands mayoralty candidate who lost to Aldan by a single vote, has challenged in court 21 votes that she alleged were illegal.

The court had already examined eight of those challenged voters.

Rebuenog named the Commission Election Commission and Aldan as defendants in the lawsuit.

The plaintiff asked the court to declare her as the elected mayor of the Northern Islands because she had the largest number of legal votes cast in the Nov. 7 election.

She asked the court to void any certification of election issued to Aldan.

Aldan, an independent candidate, received 68 votes, while Rebuenog, who ran under the Covenant Party, got 67 votes. This prompted Rebuenog to move for a recount of votes.

During the recounting, CEC determined the same result and certified that Aldan won the race.

House poised to pass resolution on OGA compliance today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The House of Representatives lacked yesterday the required the number of members present to act on a resolution changing its rules to comply with a recently ratified popular initiative applying the Open Government Act to the Legislature effective Dec. 7.

Only 14 of 20 members were present in yesterday' session.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said they need at least three-fourths or 15 members to entertain House Resolution 16-103. He also said that members need at least 24 hours to review any proposed changes to the rules.

H.R. 16-103, introduced by Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan), seeks to amend the House rules in order to comply with the Open Government Act of 2007, ratified at the general election on Nov. 7.

Palacios expressed confidence that the resolution will be adopted today.

Floor Leader Joseph N. Camacho and Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) said that, of the six absent members yesterday, at least one—Rep. Raymond Palacios (Cov-Saipan)—is on island and is expected to make it to today's session, set for 9:30am.

Palacios

The five other members who were on excused absence were Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan), Rep. Victor Hocog (Ind-Rota), Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Justo Quitugua, and Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan).

House legal counsel Joey San Nicolas, during yesterday's session, said among the major changes is the 72-hour public notice, with agendas, for official sessions and meetings.

"The speaker or respective committee should post a notice at the Governor's Office about the meeting 72 hours in advance. A notice should also be given to the media at least 72 hours in advance, but it is up to the media whether to publish it or not but we hope they would publish the notice," said San Nicolas.

Besides the public notice requirements, other changes to the rule involve public comments, and record keeping.

An official meeting is one conducted by a quorum of members present for a session or a committee meeting during which official action may be taken.

Informal conversations among lawmakers or between lawmakers and constituents are not considered official meetings subject to the Open Government Act.

Sablan's one-page resolution with 32 pages of attachment explains in detail the changes made to the House rules.

As a result of the Open Government Act of 2007, the Legislature now also has to respond to citizen requests for public records within 10 days. Failure to grant those requests subjects them to penalties.

The Senate, during its Nov. 19 session on Saipan, amended its rules to comply with the OGA initiative.

A green Christmas at the Paseo de Marianas

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Christmas spirit now reigns at the island's busiest tourist district, with the lighting of a huge Christmas tree at the center of Paseo de Marianas in Garapan.

The celebration also saw the participation of over 350 students from private and public schools that competed in the 4th Annual Christmas Tree Decorating Contest.

Organized by the nonprofit organization PDM Promoters Inc., in collaboration with government agencies and the First Lady's Vision Foundation, the event aims to make the Paseo de Marianas and Garapan vicinity a family-oriented place that is safe and clean for tourists and the local community.

According to Misako Kamata, PDM director and chief operating officer, about 15 teams were supposed to participate in the tree decorating contest but only 14 groups showed up. *Saipan Tribune* learned that Saipan Seventh-Day Adventist did not make it to the competition last night.

A Christmas tree decorated by Saipan's *man'amko* served as a special entry for the event.

First lady Josie Fitial led the judges in last night's competition, along with Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio, Women's Affairs Office's Remy Buniag, Division of Environmental Quality's Frank Rabauliman, Marianne Teregeyo of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Angelo Villagomez of Beautify CNMI!, James Nelson of Docomo Pacific, and Ruel Villacrusis of RNV Construction.

Winners of the competition will be known on Dec. 17 in time for the celebration of the annual Christmas in the Marianas Festival. Using recycled materials, each entry will judged based on creativity and originality.

The celebration was also highlighted by the "Let's Tie a Ribbon" ceremony and performances of the Saipan Awa-Odori Team.

MINA
Mariana Islands Nature Alliance

Invitation to Bid

Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) is inviting bids by qualified Video Firms to create two (2) 30 sec PSAs about the harm posed by Marine Debris for our local television stations. We would like to model these PSAs from existing PSAs linked to the NOAA Marine Debris Website.

Prospective bidders should request and review the Scope of Work for this project by contacting Kathy Yuknavage, Marine Debris Prevention Project Manger at Kathy@minapacific.org

Bids should be submitted via email no later than 3:00 p.m. on December 12th, 2009. MINA's right to reject any or all bids is reserved.

Microl Parts Department

will be closed for inventory Friday, December 4, and Saturday, December 5, 2009.

We will reopen for regular hours on Monday, December 7, 2009.

We apologize for the inconvenience. Please come again.

MICROL CORPORATION
Corner Beach Road and Chalan Mnsr. Guerrero in San Jose
Monday **8:00am to 5:00pm** | Tuesday to Friday **8:00am to 4:00pm**
Telephone: ***234-5911*** | Fax: ***234-6514*** | ***www.microlsaipan.com***

Mount Carmel School held the drawing of its

2009 Royal Court Raffle

on November 25, 2009

Listed below are the winners:

Prizes:	Amount	Ticket No.	Winner's Name:
Grand Prize	$1000.00	03794	Troy Villafuerte
1st Prize	$500.00	38302	No Name
2nd Prize	$400.00	30878	Martina Uchel
3rd Prize	$300.00	00853	No Name
4th Prize	$300.00	13248	No Name
5th Prize	$200.00	38185	No Name
6th Prize	$200.00	39183	Ace U.
7th Prize	$100.00	09831	Beth
8th Prize	$100.00	24644	A. Abitong
9th Prize	$100.00	30093	No Name
10th Prize	$100.00	31888	Adrian U.

All prizes may be claimed at the Business Office from 7:30 a.m to 4:30 pm. Monday through Friday except Holidays. Last day to claim prizes will be on December 18, 2009.

Any question(s) pertaining to this announcement may contact the Business Office at telephone number (670) 235-1201 or 235-1285.

/S/ Margaret C. Dela Cruz
President, Mount Carmel School, Inc.

Congressman Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan:
Enactment of Public Law No. 111-84 Doubles Military Academy Openings Available to Students from the CNMI
Become an Officer – 4 Slots Available – Apply Now

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE AND LEARN

U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan is accepting applications from students seeking a nomination to one of the four U.S. service academies: Air Force Academy, Military Academy, Naval Academy and Merchant Marine Academy for the class entering Fall 2010. These academies offer students a first-rate and entirely free college education and the opportunity to receive an officer's commission in the U.S. Armed Forces upon graduation.

Who Qualifies:

- U.S. citizens
- High school graduates
- Between 17 to 23 years old
- Unmarried
- No dependents

What You Need:

- A sound academic background
- The ability to pass a physical aptitude test
- High moral character
- Strong leadership potential

Join the growing number of Officers from the Mariana Islands. (L-R) U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman 3rd Class Jonathan Jake Castro Tenorio, U.S. Navy Lieutenant Paul Sablan Duenas and Ensign Jun Vicente Mihara Chong, Jr.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms and information on how to apply can be found on Congressman Sablan's website – Sablan.house.gov. Students interested in applying for a nomination may also contact Sablan's office in Washington toll free at (877) 446-3465 or his district office in Saipan at 323-2647/8. Prospective nominees are strongly encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible.

Paid for by official funds authorized by the U.S. House of Representatives.

House panel hears testimonies on Guam war claims

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The House Armed Services Committee convened yesterday a full committee hearing to assess the Guam war claims process.

Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO), chairman of the House Armed Services Committee, convened the full committee hearing at the request of Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) and in accordance with an agreement reached during final conference negotiations on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010.

Sens. Ben Pangelinan and Frank Blas Jr. of the 30th Guam Legislature joined Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta of the U.S. Department of the Interior, former chair Mauricio Tamargo of the Guam War Claims Review Commission, and Tom Barcinas,

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Panel of witnesses, from left, Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta of the U.S. Department of the Interior, former chair Mauricio Tamargo of the Guam War Claims Review Commission, Sens. Ben Pangelinan and Frank Blas Jr. of the 30th Guam Legislature, and Tom Barcinas, a survivor of the occupation of Guam.

a survivor of the occupation of Guam, in presenting testimony before the committee.

Airfare for Barcinas was donated on behalf of the Guam Chamber of Commerce. Yesterday's hearing also marked the first time that Babauta testified before a congressional committee in his capacity as Assistant Secretary and representing the Obama Administration.

During the hearing, members of the House Armed Services Committee expressed their continued support of war claims legislation. Rep. Roscoe Bartlett (R-MD), said, "I am embarrassed that we need to be here today talking about this. It should have been resolved a long time ago."

Questions during the hearing focused on the objections raised by members of the Senate during final conference negotiations on the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2010. After being asked by Rep. Buck McKeon (R-CA), Ranking Member of the House Armed Services Committee, whether heirs of survivors of the occupation of Guam who have since passed away should be eligible for claims, Tamargo stated, "The Guam War Claims Review Commission included survivors in its recommendations strictly as a matter of parity because that is how all claim programs were administered."

Further, Skelton made a commitment to include the text of H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act, in the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2011 if other legislative vehicles are not successful. The commitment from the chairman reiterated the need for the hearing to build a stronger legislative history that the Senate can reference in future negotiations. The House of Representatives has fulfilled its obligations on the FY10 NDAA and now the Senate, per the agreement, should hold hearings before next year's bill is taken up.

"Today's hearing builds on the legislative action that we have taken in the 110th and 111th Congress and is an important step towards resolving the issue of Guam war claims," said Bordallo. "Senator Pangelinan and Senator Blas expressed the importance of passing war claims legislation in the context of the military buildup [in] Guam. Resolving war claims will help enhance community support for the buildup. I believe that my colleagues on this committee, who have already been very supportive of war claims, have a greater understanding of the importance of this issue to the people of Guam. The witnesses today, particularly Chairman Tamargo and Assistant Secretary Babauta, answered the difficult questions that will help us further this legislation in the Senate. Moreover, the testimony of Mr. Tom Barcinas expressed the sentiment of those who endured the occupation and their heirs and the need to pass legislation recognizing the sacrifices and loyalty of the people of Guam."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tom Barcinas speaks to, from left to right. Rep. Jeff Miller of Florida and Rep. Joe Wilson of South Carolina before the hearing.

"Comfort, this word best describes what I am asking for the people of Guam," Blas said. "Give my man'amko the comfort of knowing that even after all these years, their suffering has not gone unnoticed."

"The Chamorros of Guahan do not expect payment to turn back time, change history, or alter the future," said Pangelinan. "but recognition of a people's sacrifice in upholding the honor of America, maintaining their dignity in the fight for their liberty, and demonstrating steadfast loyalty remain priceless. That is evidence of everything our founding fathers envisioned, everything thousands of young American soldiers died for on the shoreline of Guam's beaches, and that will memorialize our history, bring peace to a dying generation, and alter the future for new generations." ***(PR)***

SHRM SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) CNMI Chapter

Presents

A New CNMI Workforce Era

Thursday, December 10, 2009
Fiesta Resort & Spa – Hibiscus Ballroom
Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands

AGENDA

7:30 – 8:15 am	**Registration & Continental Breakfast**
8:15 – 8:30 am	**Welcoming Remarks** **Marlene Cruz**, SHRM CNMI Chapter President
8:30 – 9:45 am	**Update from the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS)** **David Gulick**, District Director – Honolulu U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Citizenship and Immigration Services
9:45 – 10:00 am	**Break**
10:00 – 11:15 am	**Update from the U. S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)** **Bruce Murley**, Area Port Director – Honolulu **Gerald Aevermann**, Acting Port Director – Saipan U. S. Department of Homeland Security, Customs & Border Protection
11:15 – 12:00 pm	**The New Role of the CNMI Department of Labor** **Cinta M. Kaipat**, Deputy Secretary CNMI Department of Labor
12:00 – 1:30 pm	**Lunch** **Update on the Guam Buildup and Regional Workforce Opportunities** **Maria Connelley**, Director Guam Department of Labor **The Successful Guam H1 & H2 Visa Program** **Greg Massey**, Administrator Guam Department of Labor, Alien Labor Processing & Certification Division
1:30 – 2:15 pm	**Workforce Investment Agency Funding Available to Develop Your Workforce** **Barbara Santos Van Meter**, Acting Director CNMI Workforce Investment Agency
2:15 – 3:00 pm	**Recruiting Talent from Northern Marianas College (NMC)** **Dr. Carmen Fernandez**, President **Heather Santos**, Career Services Manager Northern Marianas College
3:00 – 3:45 pm	**Recruiting Talent from the Northern Marianas Trades Institute (NMTI)** **Anthony Pellegrino**, President Northern Marianas Trades Institute
3:45 – 4:00 pm	**Closing Remarks** **Eric Plinske**, SHRM CNMI Chapter President-Elect

$45 SHRM members **$65** SHRM nonmembers

Seats are limited, sign up now!

For reservations please call 323-5866 ask for Penny or Denise

For registration, email ericplinske@yahoo.com

Hafa Adai SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT CNMI

DANDAN
235-8989 • OPEN : 24HOURS

TWINS SUPERMARKET

LOWER NAVY HILL
322-4989 • OPEN 6AM-11PM

...the place where you can buy goods at affordable and low prices...

Weekend Sale

DECEMBER 4-6, 2009

December 24 & 25
FOR EVERY MINIMUM PURCHASE OF $50 WORTH OF SHOPPING, YOU'LL GET 1 FREE WALL CALENDAR!
OFFER IS GOOD WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

WE ACCEPT MAJOR CREDIT CARDS — PACIFIC EXPRESS, AMERICAN EXPRESS, DISCOVER NETWORK, VISA, JCB, MasterCard

WE ACCEPT FOOD STAMP
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

FRESH MEATS • FROZEN FOODS • GROCERY ITEMS • PRODUCE

Diamond G Rice $31.99 50 LBS. $13.99 20 LBS.	AAA Elephant Rice $24.99 50 LBS	Royal Thai Rice $28.99 50 LBS	Brown Rice/ Sweet Rice $4.99 5 LBS	Chicken Leg Quarter LIMIT 2 $20.99 33 LBS. $14.99 22 LBS.	Pork Spareribs LIMIT 2 $15.99 20 LBS.	Baby Ribs LIMIT 2 $15.99 /CASE	Young Whole Chicken LIMIT 2 $33.99 30 LBS.	Mackerel Pike $20.99 22 LBS.	Tilapia 99¢ /LB $37.99 /CASE	Beef Back Ribs $23.99 20 LBS.	Turkey Tail LIMIT 2 $15.99 20 LBS.
Beef Knuckle Steak $2.99 /LB.	Flank Steak $17.99 FAMILY BAG	Miller Sausage $14.99 5 LBS.	Chicken Wings $11.99 5 LBS.	Chicken Nuggets $10.99 5 LBS.	Ground Beef $9.99 5 LBS. $16.99 10 LBS.	Beef Rib Finger $2.99 /LB	Ground Pork $2.39 1 LB. $16.99 10 LBS.	Chopped Ham $8.99 5 LBS. $15.99 10 LBS.	Bar S Jumbo Franks $1.09 /PKG LIMIT 2	Bar S Bacon $2.49 /PKG.	Hoffy Portugese Sausage $1.99 /PKG.
Beef Ribeye Steak $15.99 FAMILY BAG	Lamb Shoulder Roll $4.99 1 LB.	Hoffy Sausage $6.99 44 OZ.	Beef Patties $3.99 3 LBS.	Turkey $1.99 1 LB.	Pork Loin Boneless $2.99 1 LB.	Beef Pot Roast $3.25 1 LB.	Picnic Smoked Ham/ Gusto Smoked Ham $1.99 1 LB.	T-Bone Steak $3.99 /LB.	Beef Top Round Steak $14.99 FAMILY BAG	Crab $7.99 /LB.	
Calamary Seawave $1.99 1 LB.	Vega Shrimp $4.99 1 LB. LIMIT 6	Green Mussels $3.99 2 LB. LIMIT 1	Onion 59¢ /LB.	Red Onion 99¢ /LB.	Garlic (4 pcs.) 89¢ /PACK	Orange 89¢ /LB.	Potato (Jumbo) 79¢ /LB.	Banana 99¢ /LB.	Gala Apple Cello Fuji Apple Cello $3.99 PKG.	U.S. Eggs Extra Large $1.99 /DOZ.	

CANNED GOODS • BEVERAGES • SNACKS • GROCERY ITEMS

Spam (All Flavors) $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS	Tulip Luncheon Meat $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS	Hormel Corned Beef Hash $1.99 LIMIT 6 CANS	Ox & Palm Corned Beef $2.29 LIMIT 6 CANS	Black Label $1.39 LIMIT 6 CANS	Armour / Libby's Vienna Sausage 59¢ 5 OZ.	Coco Saba $1.29 15 OZ.	Master A1 Tuna 99¢ LIMIT 6 CANS	Ace Diamond Tuna $1.19 LIMIT 6 CANS	Ligo Sardines 3 for $1.00	Beach Cliff Sardines 89¢	
Hormel Chili No Beans $1.99	Ichiban $8.99 /BOX	Korean Bowl Noodle (Nong Shim) $7.99 /CASE	DelMonte Kernel Corn 79¢	Chicken Noodle 99¢	Sugar 99¢ 1 KG. $1.79 2 KG.	Kikkoman $3.99 1.6 L LIMIT 6 BTL.	Kimchee Base $4.99 450G	Lemon Powder $4.99 /CASE	Vlassic Dill Pickles $5.99 WHOLE $6.99 SLICE	Flour / Rice Stick 99¢	Excellent Rice Stick 99¢ 8 OZ.
Chorizzos $25.99 LIMIT 1	Salad Oil $23.99 5 GALLON	Dragon Vegetable Oil $7.99 1 GALLON	UFC Banana Catchup 99¢ 1 KG	Anchor Fresh Milk $15.99 /CASE	Real Fresh Milk 1 L $19.99 /CASE	Maseca Flour $3.99 5 LBS.	Hungarian Flour $2.75 5 LBS.	Folgers Coffee $9.99 33.9 OZ.	Coffee Mix $6.99 LIMIT 1 100 STICKS	Coffee Mate $1.99 1 LB.	Kraft Real Mayo $9.99 1 GALLON
Seok Water $4.99 /CASE	Cool Aid $7.99 36 QTZ.	Sunkist Juice $5.99 /CASE	Chamorro Punch $8.99	Zesto Juice (All Flavor) $1.99 10 PCS./BOX	Assam Black Tea $8.99 /CASE	Carlo Rossi 4 L $20.99	Hale's ALL FLAVORS $1.99 /BTL.	Hite / Max Beer WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $14.99 /CASE	Budweiser/Bud Light Beer WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $24.99 /CASE	Coke (All Flavors) WARM ONLY LIMIT 2 $12.99 /CASE	Pepsi (All Flavors) WARM ONLY $14.99 /CASE

NON-FOOD

Tide Detergent $3.99 2.8 KG. $6.99 5 KG.	Sunburst 45 OZ. $3.99 1.34 L	Gain Powder LIMIT 2 $15.99 120 LOADS	Gain Liquid Detergent (All Kind) 50 OZ. $4.99 LIMIT 2	Joy Dishwashing $5.99 90 OZ.	Butane Gas LIMIT 2 CASES $19.99 /CASE	Axxion Foam Plates 125 CT $6.99 LIMIT 1	Luv's Big Box (All Sizes) $17.99 3, 4, 5, 6
Safeguard 90 G 59¢	Bounty Paper Towel $18.99 15 ROLLS	Table Napkin $3.99 400 COUNT	Dawn Dishwashing $7.99 90 OZ.	Charmin Tissue $6.99 24 ROLLS	Toilet Tissue $2.99 10 ROLLS	Diamond Aluminum Foil $6.99 200 SQ. FT.	

FAMILY BAG

Pork Hocks	$8.99
Pork Belly	$10.99
Pork Adobo	$9.99
Pork Spareribs	$5.99
Pork Chops	$10.99
Beef Stew	$13.99
Beef Backribs	$7.99
Beef Shortribs	$13.99
Stewing Chicken	$6.99
Quarter Leg s	$5.99

Business

Tan nominated for 2009 Guam Business Executive of the Year

TAMUNING, Guam—Tan Holdings Corp. executive vice president Jerry L. Tan has been nominated for the Guam Business Executive of the Year award.

The award, marking its 27th anniversary this year, is presented in order to recognize executives who have made outstanding contributions to the local business community and raised the bar in the field in which they are involved.

Tan, who is the only nominee from the CNMI, is joined on the shortlist of nominees by the following:

■ Corine Berking, general manager, Dewitt Moving & Storage;

■ Hee K. Cho, chief executive officer, JMSH LLC;

■ Matthew Giger, chief business development officer, iConnect;

■ Robert Marks, operations manager, Parsons Corp.;

■ James A. Martinez, president, Guam Contractors' Association;

Tan

■ Jay R. Shedd, president and CEO, Docomo Pacific; and

■ Sinforoso M. Tolentino, administrative partner, Carlsmith Ball LLP.

The award will be presented at the Executive of the Year gala Jan. 16, 2010, at the Hyatt Regency Guam in conjunction with the release of the Guam Business January-February issue, featuring a portrait of the winner on its cover. The name of the winner has traditionally been held secret by the magazine until the unveiling of the issue on the night itself.

Proceeds from the gala will go to benefit the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Tickets for the Jan. 16 awards gala may be purchased from Chita Blaise by calling 472-6217 or e-mailing arcguam1@ite.net.

Past recipients include Robert H. Jones of Triple J Enterprises (1983); John M. Borlas of IT&E Overseas Inc. (1984); Philip J. Flores of BankPacific (1985); Doris Flores Brooks of the Office of Public Accountability (1986); Mark V. Pangelinan of M.V. Pangelinan Enterprises Inc. (1987); Allen A. Pickens of Tax-Aide (1988); the late T. Roy Sullivan of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1989); Kurt S. Moylan of Moylan's Insurance (1990); Akira "Mike" Baba of Baba Corp. (1991); Paul M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1992); Antoinette D. Sanford of the Sanford Technology Group (1993); the late Kenneth T. Jones of Jones & Guerrero Co. (1994); the late Edward M. Calvo of Calvo Enterprises Inc. (1995); L. Carl Peterson of Money Resources Inc. (1996); William R. Thompson of Aon Insurance Micronesia (1997); John K. Lee of First Hawaiian Bank (1998); the late Henry L. Schnabel of Calvo's Insurance Underwriters (1999); Marian Aldan-Pierce of DFS Saipan (2000); Manfred H. Pieper of the Conrad Bangkok (2001); Thomas G. Ahillen of Asia Pacific Solutions LLC (2002); Juan T. Guerrero of Herman's Modern Bakery Inc. (2003); Joey Crisostomo of Cars Plus LLC, Cycles Plus and Payless Car Rental (2004); Joseph "Jerry" Kramer of Pacific International Inc. (2004); David M. Sablan of Century Group of Companies (2005); Alfred C. Ysrael of Tanota Partners (2006); Lee P. Webber of the Honolulu Advertiser (2007); and Laura Lynn V Dacanay of First Hawaiian Bank (2008). ***(PR)***

INVITATION FOR BIDS
WATER TASK FORCE
IFB10-GOV- 004

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed bids for the **CENTRAL GARAPAN WATERLINE REPLACEMENT** in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of the Treasury (T-Listed).

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Contractor will be required to submit payment and performance bonds from a US Treasury listed company. The Contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal laws including the Davis Bacon Act.

This project is funded by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), Department of Commerce and the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the project approval from EDA and OIA.

The project consists, in general, but is not limited to:

- Replace 50 service laterals and 16 water meters, with 65 water meters relocations.
- Install gate valves, fittings, for new 9 fire hydrants and connections to existing water mains at various locations.
- Install 3,130 linear feet of 8-inch PVC distribution pipe and 2,800 linear feet of 6-inch PVC distribution pipe.
- Abandon in-place of old asbestos cement pipe (ACP).
- Restore disturbed asphalt paving, concrete curbs and gutters.
- Conduct the area topographic and easement surveys.
- Construction activity to not interrupt existing water service to the area.

A non-refundable payment of $500 to CNMI Treasury is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after **December 4, 2009** at the Water Task Force Office, 1316 Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan. A mandatory pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at **10:00 a.m.**, on **December 18, 2009**, at the WTF Conference Room, Saipan. A project site visit will be made as a part of the pre-bid meeting.

All inquiries shall be in writing and addressed to Pedro Sasamoto, Program Manager, Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950 or faxed to (670) 664-2279. Inquiries must be received no later than 4:30 PM on **December 17, 2009.**

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, contained in the CNMI Administrative Code, Title 70 Subchapter 70-30.3. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

Sealed bids must be marked "**IFB10-GOV-004**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 pm local time **January 4, 2010.** Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 3:00 pm local time January 4, 2010, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **January 4, 2010**, and must be received no later than **January 18, 2010.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **January 19, 2010.** However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:00 pm local time on **January 5, 2010.**

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial
Governor and Contracting Officer

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement and Supply

Sources: Comcast to pay $13.75B for NBC stake

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—After months of negotiations, Comcast Corp. is finally about to seal its deal for a majority stake in NBC Universal, turning the nation's largest cable TV provider into one of its most powerful media companies.

Comcast Corp. is expected to announce early Thursday that it will pay $13.75 billion in cash and assets to gain control of NBC Universal from General Electric Co. People familiar with the transaction described it to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the agreement has not been made public.

The deal is expected to call for Comcast to spend $6.5 billion in cash and contribute cable channels worth $7.25 billion for its 51 percent stake in NBC Universal. GE would hold the rest, though it could sell half of its portion after 3 1/2 years and the remainder after seven years.

The new NBC Universal also is expected to borrow $9.1 billion—part of which will be used to cover the $5.8 billion that GE is paying to acquire Vivendi SA's 20 percent stake in NBC Universal.

NBC Universal includes the flagship NBC TV network, the Telemundo Spanish-language network, Universal Pictures and theme parks, and about two dozen cable channels such as Bravo and CNBC. Regulators would have to approve the deal, and they are likely to take months to sort out the implications of allowing a company that serves one-fourth of the nation's pay-TV households to take control of a vast content-creation empire.

Comcast CEO Brian Roberts has been eager to expand his company's TV and movie content holdings for years. His goal: to diversify Comcast's holdings amid an encroaching threat from online video and more aggressive competition from satellite and phone companies that offer subscription TV services.

He was rebuffed in 2004 when he tried a takeover of Walt Disney Co., but turned his eye to NBC Universal.

Up for second term, Fed chief heads to Congress

WASHINGTON (AP)—He angered Congress and the public for bailing out Wall Street. He failed to detect early signs of the housing collapse. And now, he may be helping feed another speculative bubble.

Yet Ben Bernanke is all but certain to win Senate approval for another term as chairman of the Federal Reserve.

Why?

Mainly because even his critics concede that Bernanke helped keep the Great Recession from becoming a second Great Depression.

President Barack Obama, who nominated him to a second term, has said he thinks Bernanke has the knowledge and ability to guide a lasting economic recovery. So do many on Capitol Hill.

Bernanke, 55, will appear Thursday before the Senate Banking Committee, seeking confirmation for another four years as head of the nation's central bank.

Despite their attacks on the Fed as a too-secretive institution that's failed as a regulator, many lawmakers express confidence in the economic stewardship of its current leader.

A soft-spoken consensus-builder, Bernanke conjures up the image of the scholarly professor he was for years. Privately, Bernanke has forged relationships on Capitol Hill that have helped solidify his standing.

On the one hand, for example, Banking Committee Chairman Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., wants to eliminate the Fed's supervisory powers because its regulators failed to spot and combat abuses that triggered the housing crisis.

Yet on the other hand, Dodd says Bernanke has ably managed the financial and economic debacles. Without Bernanke's bold moves at the height of the financial crisis last year, Dodd and other lawmakers have acknowledged that it likely would have worsened.

Drawing on lessons learned as a scholar of the Great Depression, Bernanke rolled out a slew of bold and unprecedented programs to help ease credit clogs and spur lending. He coordinated emergency relief actions with central banks overseas. He slashed a key lending rate to a record low near zero.

Those steps—along with a $787 billion stimulus package—eventually helped pull the country out of recession. The economy has now entered a fragile recovery.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

American, partners offer $1.1 billion to JAL

TOKYO (AP)—American Airlines upped the ante in the tug-of-war over Japan Airlines, vowing Thursday to lead a $1.1 billion investment in the struggling carrier to prevent it from falling into the orbit of rival Delta. American's chief financial officer, Tom Horton, told reporters that the offer is "far superior" to the $1 billion rival proposal from Delta Air Lines and its SkyTeam partners. He refused to describe the composition of the offer, or say how much of the money would come from American. But he said the proposal by American, its oneworld partners and private equity firm TPG Inc. is part of a larger restructuring plan to get JAL back on solid footing.

Report: Peugeot to buy stake in Mitsubishi

TOKYO (AP)—Shares in Mitsubishi Motors Corp. jumped 18 percent Thursday following a report that French carmaker PSA Peugeot Citroen will buy a 30 to 50 percent stake in Japan's No. 4 automaker. The Nikkei business daily said Peugeot Citroen will spend up to 300 billion yen ($3.4 billion) to acquire the stake in Mitsubishi. Investors took heart from the report, lifting shares in Mitsubishi by 17.6 percent to 140 yen in the morning session. Mitsubishi declined to confirm the report, which gave no sources. But the Japanese company issued a statement saying: "There are no facts to be announced."

Nation

AARP backs Dems in Senate health care fight

WASHINGTON (AP)—With a Senate showdown looming, the politically potent AARP rode to the rescue of Democrats on Wednesday, supporting $460 billion in Medicare cuts to help pay for landmark health care legislation.

As Republicans pressed to restore the cuts, AARP said Democrats merely were recommending elimination of waste and inefficiency within the giant health care program for seniors.

"Most importantly, the legislation does not reduce any guaranteed Medicare benefits," A. Barry Rand, the AARP's CEO, said in a letter to senators.

Republicans, led by Sen. John McCain, said seniors would lose some of their add-on benefits that are part of coverage under private insurance Medicare. "Above all, we must not use Medicare as a piggy bank" to pay for other programs, the Arizona Republican said.

Democrats, sensitive to the charges, rallied behind an alternative proposal by Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., saying the bill would cause no reduction in guaranteed Medicare benefits.

Skeptical Dems resign themselves to Obama war plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—A deeply skeptical Congress on Wednesday resigned itself to President Barack Obama's escalation of the Afghanistan war, even as the president's chief military and diplomatic advisers sought to cool any expectations that the war would end in two years.

Obama

Leading Democrats said they had serious misgivings about the deployment of 30,000 more troops but would not try to stop the deployments or block the $30 billion the military will need. Republicans said they support the force increase even as they questioned Obama's July 2011 deadline to start bringing troops home.

The response was the best Obama could have hoped for from a Congress sharply divided on the war.

"It's not likely that there would be any circumstances where the president would lose this battle this year" with lawmakers, said Rep. John Murtha, a vocal war critic who oversees military spending.

In House and Senate hearings on Wednesday, Obama's advisers warned that the stakes were great. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said losing the war "would have severe consequences for the United States and the world."

The testimony was aimed at building support among war-weary lawmakers for Obama's dramatic rewrite of the battle plan in Afghanistan. By the end of next summer, the president plans to increase to 100,000 the number of U.S. troops there, marking the largest expansion of the war since it began eight years ago. The new strategy, announced by the president Tuesday night, also relies on a pledge by NATO to commit an additional 5,000 to 7,000 troops.

With voter support of the war on the decline, Democrats sought assurances that Obama's target date to begin withdrawing troops was firm and that the focus would remain on training Afghan security forces.

Fort Hood suspect charged with attempted murder

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP)—An Army psychiatrist was charged Wednesday with 32 counts of attempted premeditated murder in the deadly mass shooting at Fort Hood that also injured more than two dozen soldiers and two civilian police officers, military officials said.

Hasan

Maj. Nidal Hasan has already been charged with 13 counts of premeditated murder after the Nov. 5 shooting in a building at the Texas base where soldiers must go before being deployed. Witnesses said he jumped on a desk and shouted "Allahu Akbar!"—Arabic for "God is great!" Army officials have said he was armed with two pistols, one a semi-automatic capable of firing up to 20 rounds without reloading.

The additional charges come less than 24 hours after Hasan's civilian attorney was notified that the Army plans to evaluate Hasan to test his competency to stand trial as well as his mental state at the time of the shooting.

John Galligan, Hasan's attorney, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that Army officials had not returned his calls so he did not know when or where the "mental responsibility" exam would take place. Galligan said he had filed an objection to the evaluation pointing out that Hasan was still in intensive care at a San Antonio military hospital recovering from gunshot wounds that left him paralyzed.

ACROSS THE NATION

More unidentified bodies surface at Ill. cemetery

CHICAGO (AP)—Officials at a historic black cemetery in suburban Chicago where former workers allegedly dug up graves in a scheme to resell burial plots are again finding human remains in the ground when they try to bury someone else. Burr Oak Cemetery in Alsip reopened to the public in November after being closed for nearly four months, but resumed burials in October. Officials said at a news conference Wednesday that while preparing grave sites since burials resumed, workers found a human bone in a spot where they didn't know anyone was buried and twice found caskets. "We are trying to give a heads-up to families that we're dealing with that this may occur again," said Roman Szabelski, the one-time court-appointed receiver at the cemetery who is now a consultant there. "It's going to be a day-by-day, grave-by-grave situation."

Fears mount over giant carp reaching Great Lakes

CHICAGO (AP)—Fears that giant, voracious species of carp will get into the Great Lakes and wipe out other fish have led to rising demands that the government close the waterway connecting the lakes to the Mississippi River—an unprecedented step that could disrupt the movement of millions of tons of iron ore, coal, grain and other goods. The dispute could become an epic clash of competing interests: commerce, environmentalists and fishermen. Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm and five environmental groups threatened Wednesday to sue the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to force it to temporarily shut three shipping locks near Chicago because of evidence that Asian carp may have breached the electrical barrier that is supposed to hold them back from the lakes.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW 10-RFP-001
RENOVATIONS TO THE WIC ADMISTRATION BUILDING N-25, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Renovation to the WIC Administration Building N-25** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Maraiana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2004. Article 7, "Local Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30 3-505 of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after November 20, 2009 at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center Office. Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference at the WIC Administration Building N-25, Navy Hill at 1:00 P.M. on December 09, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercail Center, Saipan, of faxed to (670)234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time December 16, 2009.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. **Qualifications and Experiences (50%).** Professional background and caliber of key staff and personnel and demonstrated technical capability. Current and recently completed projects that substantiate the firm's aptitude for project of similar size, scope, and requirements. The team must have post-secondary educational design experience either thru and employee, join venture or consultant.

2. **Organization and Capacity (35%).** Capacity of firm and proposed lead designers to fulfill Project requirements within the current workload, including the Project schedule.

3. **Response to RFB (15%).** Quality and completeness of response to the requirements of this **RFP.**

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW10-RFP-001"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, December 21, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, December 21, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals may be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country prior to, but not later than, December 21, 2009 and must be received no later than December 31, 2009 (CNMI Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. It shall be used only determined fair and reasonable contract price to the Government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with highest ranking qualified firm, then selection may be made from additional firms in order of competence and qualifications and continue negotiations until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-301 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the prosposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposals if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

/s JOSEPH KEVIN P. VILLAGOMEZ
Secretary of Public Health

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education
Public School System
P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
PSS RFP 09-038

"PROJECT MONITORING SERVICES"

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms interested in **"MONITORING AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS, SATURDAY SCHOOL AND THE FEDERALLY FUNDED INNOVATIVE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS AT THE 20 PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND 26 PRIVATE SCHOOLS."** The scope of work is available beginning November 27, 2009 at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the 3rd floor of the NMI Retirement Fund Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Meeting on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. at the COE Conference Room, 3rd floor Retirement Fund Building. Questions must be in writing and addressed to Tim Thornburgh, Federal Program Officer via fax to 670.664.3767 or e-mail to thornburght@gmail.com no later than December 21, 2009.

Proposals shall be in a sealed envelope marked "RFP 09-038" containing (1) original and three (3) copies and submitted to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office no later than Thursday, December 24, 2009 at 10:30 A.M. Any proposal submitted after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted.

/S/ Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D.
Commissioner of Education

/S/ Robert Florian
P&S Officer

Asia

Suspected gunman in Philippine massacre arrested

AP

Protesters hold a dove beside slogans during a rally condemning election related violence in Manila, Philippines on Wednesday Dec. 2, 2009.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police said Wednesday they have arrested a government militiaman for allegedly participating in last week's gruesome massacre of 57 people—a breakthrough that could help pin down a powerful clan suspected in the carnage.

Ballistics tests on an M16 rifle seized from Esmail Canapia showed it was used to fire several of the 126 ammunition shells found on the scene of the Nov. 23 massacre of people participating in an election convoy and journalists who accompanied them, national police Director General Jesus Verzosa said.

Army troops arrested Canapia and another militiaman, Takpan Dilon, as they fled from the scene of the massacre in remote Ampatuan township in southern Maguindanao province. They were turned over to police investigators, who detained them while their firearms were subjected to tests, Verzosa said.

Verzosa called the development "a major breakthrough" in the investigation of the killings, which have been condemned worldwide. Among the dead were 30 journalists and their staff members—reportedly the deadliest-ever single attack on the media.

Obama's Afghan plan represents high-stakes gamble

KABUL (AP)—President Barack Obama is holding an uncertain hand in his high-stakes gamble in the fight against Islamic extremism in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Weak partners in both countries, doubts about the speed of building up Afghan security forces and allies reluctant to commit themselves wholeheartedly to the battle all raise questions about the strategy.

If all goes well, U.S. troops can begin heading home in July 2011, Obama said. The White House says Obama set this date to make sure Afghan President Hamid Karzai's government knows it has limited time to reform itself and take charge of security.

Yet nearly every step presents difficult challenges—problems that festered over eight years of international neglect after the Bush administration shifted its attention from Afghanistan to Iraq once the U.S.-led invasion of 2001 had ousted the Taliban from power.

The threefold plan, unveiled Tuesday during a speech at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., calls for:

■ Sending 30,000 U.S. reinforcements to reverse the Taliban's momentum and bolster Afghanistan's security forces within 18 months.

■ An accelerated program to boost the notoriously weak and corrupt Afghan government.

■ Partnership with Pakistan, where many al-Qaida figures including Osama bin Laden are believed hiding.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Report: 2,600 bodies found in Kashmir graves

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—Nearly 2,600 bodies have been discovered in single unmarked and mass graves throughout mountainous Indian Kashmir, human rights activists said Wednesday, alleging some of the dead were likely innocent people killed by security forces. More than a dozen Kashmiri rebel groups have been fighting for independence from India or a union with predominantly Muslim Pakistan since 1989. Rights groups say there have been more than 8,000 disappearances since the rebellion began. Researchers from the International People's Tribunal on Human Rights and Justice, an Indian Kashmir-based rights group, said they found the graves in 55 villages during a three-year survey that concluded last month.

Taliban: Afghan surge will mean more US fatalities

KABUL (AP)—The Taliban rebuffed President Barack Obama's new war plan for Afghanistan on Wednesday, saying his strategy to send 30,000 new troops will only lead to more American casualties. If conditions are right, Obama said U.S. forces could begin leaving Afghanistan in 18 months. Gen. Stanley McChrystal, the top U.S. commander in the country, said the Afghan government and its international partners should use the coming year-and-a-half to convince the Taliban they can't win and offer militants a way to quit the insurgency "with dignity." In a statement, the Taliban said the Obama administration's plan was "no solution for the problems of Afghanistan" and would give insurgents an opportunity "to increase their attacks and shake the American economy, which is already facing crisis."

Victims of Bhopal gas tragedy demand cleanup

BHOPAL, India (AP)—Hundreds of people marched through Bhopal with torches before dawn Thursday to mark the 25th anniversary of the world's worst industrial disaster and demand the cleanup of toxic chemicals they say still contaminate the Indian city's soil and water. Early on Dec. 3, 1984, a pesticide plant run by Union Carbide spewed about 40 tons of deadly methyl isocyanate gas into the city's air, quickly killing about 4,000 people. The lingering effects of the poison raised the death toll to about 15,000 over the next few years, according to government estimates. Local activists insist the real numbers are almost twice that, and say the company and government have failed to clean up toxic chemicals at the plant, which closed after the accident.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, 2nd Floor, Morgen Building
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel(670)664-8300 • Fax(670)664-8315
Website: www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 09, 2009, at 1:30 P.M. at the CRM conference room, 1st floor Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
a) Call to Order
b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION
1. Tinian Municipal Landfill – CRM Reference No. TMS-2009-X-080
2. Marine Salvage Operation – CRM Reference No. SMS-2009-X-082
a. Permit application/summary by CRMO
b. Discussion of permit application by CRM Agencies/CRMO
c. Permit status determination (CRM Agencies/CRM)

III. OTHER MATTERS
1. Proposed three (3) storey duplex building, Gualo Rai

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. [Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Agency Officials may vote to meet in executive session.]

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
SCHEDULE OF **WASTEWATER CHARGES** AND **RATES**
EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 1, 2009

Pursuant to the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's Decision and Order (Docket 09-2) of November 20, 2009, the wastewater rates (metered and estimated) have been increased. Thus, the following rates shall supersede the wastewater rates set forth in CUC's administrative regulations 50 NMIAC 20-410 [a] effective December 1, 2009.

CUSTOMER CLASSIFICATIONS	OLD RATES	NEW RATES
RESIDENTIAL		
Monthly Service Charge	$0.00	$0.00
Volume Rate per **1,000** Gallons	0.50	1.37
Minimum Monthly Use Charge (Up to 6,000 Gals.)	3.00	8.20
NON-RESIDENTIAL		
Monthly Service Charge	$0.00	$0.00
Volume Rate per **1,000** Gallons	0.50	1.37
Minimum Monthly Use Charge (Up to 6,000 Gals.)	3.00	8.20
GOVERNMENT		
Monthly Service Charge	$0.00	$0.00
Volume Rate per **1,000** Gallons	30.00	30.00
Minimum Monthly Use Charge	0.00	0.00

World

Knox defense urges court: Give Amanda back her life

PERUGIA, Italy (AP)—A defense lawyer for an American student accused of killing her British roommate broke down after urging the court to give his client back her life. But a prosecutor called the accused a compressed spring who exploded the night of the murder.

Amanda Knox and her former boyfriend Raffaele Sollecito are being tried in Perugia for the 2007 slaying of Meredith Kercher. They deny wrongdoing.

Luciano Ghirga, one of Knox's defense lawyers, insisted in court that Knox was the victim of a "mechanism that crushed her."

"Amanda is asking to have her life back. Give Amanda her life back by clearing her of all charges," Ghirga said, raising his voice and fighting back tears at the end of his emotional three-hour concluding argument.

In his rebuttal, lead prosecutor Giuliano Mignini said Knox lashed out at Kercher on the night of the murder for having complained about her promiscuous behavior.

A verdict by the eight-member jury is expected by the end of the week.

Kercher's body was found Nov. 2, 2007, in the apartment she shared with Knox. Prosecutors believe she was killed in a drug-fueled attack and was sexually assaulted. Knox and Sollecito are being tried on charges of murder and sexual violence. A third suspect Rudy Hermann Guede of Ivory Coast, was sentenced to 30 years in jail last year in a separate trial.

Ghirga challenged evidence in the case, including a knife that prosecutors say could be the murder weapon. The 6 1/2-inch (16.5-centimeter) blade that prosecutors say had Kercher's DNA on the blade and Knox's on the handle was found at Sollecito's house. According to Ghirga, wounds and cuts on the Briton's body indicate that a smaller knife might have been used in the attack.

He charged that prosecutors had changed their minds about the alleged motive for the attack.

"Initially, it was a sexual motive, now it's hate," Ghirga said. "But that's just another non-existing motive."

In his closing remarks, Mignini has contended that Knox "harbored hatred" for Kercher and wanted to get back at her for saying she was unclean and promiscuous. Knox has denied having problems with Kercher and has said she was shocked by her friend's death.

In an apparent acknowledgment of the enormous pressure the high-profile case has created, Ghirga appeared to weep as he thanked the jury and colleagues at the end of his argument.

"I broke down at the end, as soon as I stopped talking. I even feel a bit embarrassed about it," he said as he left the courtroom.

Prosecutors requested life terms for Knox and Sollecito, who maintain they were at Sollecito's apartment the night of the slaying, watching a movie on his computer and smoking pot. Defense lawyers for Knox and Sollecito are working on the theory that Guede was the sole attacker. Guede is appealing his conviction.

Defiant Iran vows to enrich uranium even more

VIENNA (AP)—In a defiant speech, Iran's president declared Wednesday that his country will enrich uranium to a much higher level - a fresh rejection of an international plan to curb Tehran's nuclear program.

Experts said that could put Tehran on the road to making the material needed to arm a warhead within months.

"I declare here that with the grace of God, the Iranian nation will produce 20 percent fuel and anything it needs itself," Ahmadinejad told a cheering crowd in the central city of Isfahan.

Iran denies any interest in developing nuclear arms, and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's speech made no suggestion the Islamic Republic was planning to turn its enriched uranium stockpile into material that could be used in nuclear warheads.

Ahmadinejad said Tehran was ready to further enrich some of its present stockpile—now at 3.5 percent—to 20 percent, the grade needed to create fuel for a small medical research reactor in the Iranian capital.

Uranium enriched at low levels can be used as fuel for nuclear energy, but when enriched to 90 percent and above, it can be used as material for a weapon. The United States and five other world powers have been trying to win Iran's acceptance of a deal under which Tehran would ship most of its low-enriched uranium stockpile abroad to be processed into fuel rods for use in the research reactor.

WORLD BRIEFS

Honduran Congress votes against restoring Zelaya

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Honduras' Congress overwhelmingly voted Wednesday against reinstating President Manuel Zelaya, shrugging off international pressure four months after a coup that has isolated one of the poorest countries in the Americas. After a 10-hour debate, lawmakers voted 111-14 not to return the leftist leader to power for the remainder of his term, which ends Jan. 27, as Washington and many Latin American governments had urged. The vote was part of a U.S.-brokered deal to end the crisis. It left restoring Zelaya up to Congress. Zelaya, who listened to the proceedings from his refuge in the Brazilian Embassy, said even before the vote that he wouldn't return for a token two months if asked. He said he should have been reinstated before Sunday's presidential election and urged governments not to restore ties with the incoming administration of Porfirio Lobo.

Dubai mega-tower `last hurrah' to age of excess

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—When work began in 2004 to build the world's tallest tower, Dubai's confidence also was sky high with a host of mega-projects on the drawing board or rising from the sands. That swagger seems positively old school these days. It's been tripped up by a debt crunch that has humbled Dubai's leaders and exposed the shaky foundations of the city-state's boom years—leaving the planned Jan. 4 opening of the iconic Burj Dubai with a double significance of hello and goodbye. It will be both a debutante bash for a new architectural landmark and a farewell toast to Dubai's age of excess.

Iran whistleblower died from drug-laced salad

CAIRO (AP)—A 26-year-old doctor who exposed the torture of jailed protesters in Iran died of poisoning from a delivery salad laced with an overdose of blood pressure medication, prosecutors say. The findings fueled opposition fears that he was killed because of what he knew. Investigators are still trying to determine whether his death last month was a suicide or murder, Tehran's public prosecutor Abbas Dowlatabadi said, according to the state news agency IRNA. The revelations of torture against prisoners in Iran's postelection turmoil angered even government supporters and deeply embarrassed the country's clerical leadership and security forces.

SAIPAN COOL WATER INC.
P.O. Box 504466 Saipan MP 96950 • Tel. No. 235-2665 (cool) • 235-0893

NOTICE OF CONCERNS

This is to inform the General Public that Saipan Cool Water & Ice. Inc. is now under new Management, that any financial liability or any other concerns that you may have with our company is giving you one month effective November 13, 2009 until December 13, 2009 to please visit our main office located at Kannat Tabla or call 235-2665 for the settlement of all concern.

Any concerns reported after the said date will not be entertained by the new Management.

Thank you very much for your cooperation and understanding. And its been a pleasure doing business with you.

Respectfully Yours,

/s/ Kim, Kyonam
President, Saipan Cool Water & Ice Inc.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DPS-021 (1-7)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 16, 2009 • TIME: 10:30 A.M.

"PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF TEN (10) PANASONIC TOUGHBOOKS 30 MAG™ TO INCLUDE MOUNTING HARDWARES AND ANTENNAS - CISF - SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **SANTIAGO F. TUDELA**
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

Saipan International Airport; Tinian International Airport; Rota International Airport
Car Rental Concessions

Request for Proposals

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the award of Six (6) Rental Car Concessions at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, three (3) Rental Car Concessions each at the Rota International Airport and Tinian International Airport.

Proposal packages can be obtained beginning November 27, 2009 at the CPA Administration Office, Second floor of Arrival terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport at a fee of $50.00 per package. The pre-bid conference will be held on **December 7, 2009, at 2:00 p.m.,** at the CPA Conference Room located on the Second Floor, Departure Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

Proposals for all three (3) airports must be addressed to the Executive Director, P.O. Box 501055, Saipan, MP 96950; and received by the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) on **December 17, 2009**, by or **before 4:30 p.m.,** in order to be considered for the award. All proposals will be publicly opened on December 18, 2009, at 2:00 p.m., at the CPA Conference Room.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Coastal Resources Management
Caller Box 10007, 2nd Floor, Morgen Building
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel(670)664-8300 • Fax(670)664-8315
Website: www.crm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) will hold a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. TMS-2009-X-080 for the construction and operation of a municipal solid waste landfill (MSWL) in Atgidon, Tinian. The proposed MSWL would include the installation of a new liner, leachate collection and treatment system, and environmental monitoring. The purpose of the new MSWL is to replace the existing non-regulatory compliant open-burning dump currently being used for all solid waste disposal on the island.

The public hearing will be held on Wednesday, December 16, 2009, 6:30 pm, at the Tinian Elementary School, in San Jose Village.

The public is invited to attend and make oral comments regarding this project. The project file is open for review comments during business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M Monday - Friday. Written comments may be submitted to the CRM office located on the 2nd floor of the Morgen Building, Oleai, Saipan, or mailed to Coastal Resources Management Office, Caller Box 10007, Saipan or fax at 664-8315. All written and oral comments received will become part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 664-8300/1 if you require further information regarding this project and/or public hearing.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
Director
Coastal Resources Management

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-M/VA-022

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 21, 2009 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"OPERATION OF GROUNDS, LANDSCAPE, TURF GRASS, ROADWAY AND STRUCTURE MAINTENANCE AT THE CNMI VETERANS CEMETERY"

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB SHOULD BE DIRECTED TO MS. RUTH A. COLEMAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS AT (670) 664-2650 AND IS DUE ON ***DECEMBER 10, 2009, CLOSE OF BUSINESS.***

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ **RUTH A. COLEMAN**
EXECUTIVE OFFICER
MILITARY/VETERANS AFFAIRS

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DOF-013A & 10-DOF-013B

SUBMISSION: DECEMBER 23, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"CNMI GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM APPLICATION SOFTWARE UPGRADE PROJECT"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2009** AT **10:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY OFFICE IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN. ALL QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE ELECTRONICALLY SUBMITTED VIA E-MAIL TO finance.edp@cnmiarra.net NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2009**

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

Off the Wall

Peruvian wedding crashed by groom's ex

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Edwin Ortiz was just about to utter "I do," but the mother of his two children and her relatives had a different message: "Oh, no you don't." One moment, the 27-year-old Peruvian was sitting happily in a large wedding hall with 17 other couples, declaring his love for his wife-to-be to TV cameramen in the southern town of Miraflores.

The next, two women relatives of his ex-partner burst into the room, rushed up to Ortiz and began pounding on his head and back while screaming at him. The burly women eventually shoved him and his mother outside into a parking lot, where the ex-partner joined in, Miraflores spokesman Julio Hincho said Wednesday.

The ex-partner's mother, sisters and aunts all participated in Saturday's attack, Hincho said, adding, "Everyone was hauled off to jail."

Ortiz described the woman as his ex-girlfriend, but the family insists she is his wife. Police did not reveal her name and did not clarify Ortiz's marital status.

Ortiz registered himself for the mass wedding as a bachelor with no kids, Hincho said. He later acknowledged having lived with the woman but said they were separated and that he "was starting a new life."

Police officials said that a woman who identified herself as Ortiz's wife filed a complaint against him for attempted "crimes against the family."

The mass wedding ceremony went ahead as planned and all of the couples—except for Ortiz and his betrothed—were wed.

The new girlfriend, meanwhile, remained out of sight.

"She doesn't want to talk to anyone," Hincho said.

Space alien search costs AZ school worker his job

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—A former Arizona school district employee is accused of using school computers in an experiment to find space aliens, costing the worker his job and the district more than $1 million.

Schools officials say Brad Niesluchowski, who was Higley Unified School District's information technology director, downloaded free software on district computers in 2000.

The program, known as SETI(at)home, uses Internet-connected computers worldwide to analyze radio telescope data in an experiment to find extraterrestrial intelligence.

But Superintendent Denise Birdwell told the East Valley Tribune that the program also bogged down the district's system and interfered with technology use in classrooms.

Birdwell said it will take more than $1 million to fix the problem, including removal of the SETI software. She says police are conducting a broader investigation.

Niesluchowski resigned from the district Oct. 22.

His lawyer did not return calls for comment.

Death And Funeral Announcement
†CHRISTOPHER EUGENE VAN MOTT
BETTER KNOWN AS
"Chris"
Was born to life on August 3, 1946.
Was called to eternal rest on November 27, 2009
His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:
Ex Wife: Belinda Legaspi
Sister: Kay Freeman
Companion: Princess & Forest (Pets)
He is additionally survived
by numerous friends
and loyal employees.
On Friday, December 4, 2009,
his remains will be escorted
from CHC Morgue to
San Jose Church.
Viewing and
last respects will be at
11:00am at San Jose Church.
Mass of Christian Burial
will be held at 2:00pm followed
by interment at Tanapag Cemetery at 3:00pm.
Thank you for your prayers and God bless
The family & Friends

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Jesus Christ dumped from jury pool for disruption

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP)—Court officials say a Birmingham woman who changed her name to Jesus Christ didn't live up to it when she reported for jury duty this week. The woman, previously named Dorothy Lola Killingworth, was sent to Judge Clyde Jones's courtroom for a criminal case Monday. Court officials told The Birmingham News Tuesday that the 59-year-old was excused because she was disruptive and kept asking questions instead of answering them. Efforts to reach Christ for comment were unsuccessful. Court administrator Sandra Turner said people there were shocked when the woman insisted her name was Jesus Christ and some potential jurors laughed out loud when her name was called. But Turner said unlike some Jefferson County residents, Christ didn't try to get out of jury duty and was "perfectly happy to serve."

Kansas man says dog saved him from duplex fire

WICHITA, Kan. (AP)—A Kansas man credited his dog with saving his life in a fire at a Wichita duplex. Billy King said he was asleep when the fire broke out around 4:30 a.m. Tuesday on the other side of the duplex. He said he woke up only when his dog, Skip, started to bark. King uses a wheelchair and phoned his son for help. Firefighters helped the son get King out of the house. King said the intense heat caused windows to begin breaking just moments later. That's when he realized it had been a close call. King said Skip deserves a big bag of dog food. Fire officials said the fire appears to have been caused by an electrical problem in the attic.

Ohio charity workers find marijuana in donated jug

MARIETTA, Ohio (AP)—Police said whoever donated a water jug to a charity in southeast Ohio probably didn't mean to be so generous. The jug contained about $1,500 worth of marijuana. Police said workers at a local Goodwill Industries site recently found four bags of marijuana when they looked inside a water jug left outside by an anonymous donor. They turned the two-gallon metal jug and the pound or so of marijuana over to police on Friday. Marietta police Capt. Jeff Waite said the jug is probably an antique. He said authorities would be more than happy for the jug's donor to come forward and claim it.

Cowboy motorist helps Mass. troopers lasso 2 cows

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. (AP)—Two cows have escaped from a trailer onto a busy Massachusetts highway, but a cowboy stuck in the traffic jam has come to the rescue. State police say a man wearing a Western hat and boots lassoed the 500-pound heifers Tuesday morning as they wandered on Interstate 91 South in Springfield, one of the state's biggest cities. Troopers shut down the highway for about 30 minutes as the man helped load the animals back into a trailer that was carrying them to nearby Enfield, Conn. The cows had escaped into slow-moving traffic after a latch on the trailer opened. Police say the cowboy doesn't want to be publicly identified.

Police: Man lies about robbery over fear of wife

PANAMA CITY BEACH, Fla. (AP)—A Panama City Beach man reportedly admitted to deputies that he lied about being robbed so he wouldn't have to tell his wife that he spent the money. The Bay County Sheriff's Office reported that a 30-year-old man was arrested and charged Friday with making a false report. According to a report, the man called 911 from a Panama City Beach store and claimed that he was getting into his car when a man dressed in black hit him and took $100 in cash. But the store's surveillance video showed the man walk out of the store, sit in his car for a short time and then go back inside to use the phone. After deputies showed the man the video, he acknowledged that he hadn't actually been robbed. The man was released from jail Saturday on $750 bail.

Police: Woman torched man's porch after breakup

DETROIT (AP)—Detroit authorities said a 29-year-old woman who was upset because her boyfriend broke up with her has been arrested after she lit his porch on fire. Fire Department investigators said neighbors saw the woman pour gas on the concrete porch and light it on fire about 3 a.m. Wednesday. Investigators said a 40-year-old man previously told the woman she couldn't stay at his house on the city's northwest side after he discovered she had been cheating. Police responded to the home Tuesday night after the woman sprayed the man with mace. No injuries were reported from the fire. The Detroit Free Press said the woman was expected to be charged with arson.

Police: Ohio man used rifle, ax on park gate

INDIAN HILL, Ohio (AP)—Police in southwest Ohio said a man was so angry that a park revoked his privileges that he destroyed the park gate with an assault rifle and an ax. Police said 23-year-old Michael Rosenbaum, of Cincinnati, was arrested Tuesday on charges of vandalism and possession of criminal tools. Police said Rosenbaum lost his Grand Valley Preserve privileges after he ignored warnings to stop setting fires to keep warm while fishing. Indian Hill Detective Steve Makin said Rosenbaum on Nov. 24 destroyed the gate with an ax and fired four rounds into a box controlling the gate. Damage is estimated at $1,500. Rosenbaum was in jail Wednesday. A message seeking comment was left at the office of his attorney, Jack Rubenstein.

Police say dresser saved woman, kids from bullet

UNIONTOWN, Pa. (AP)—Police said a dresser positioned near a window kept a bullet from hitting a woman and her two young children as they slept at a southwestern Pennsylvania housing project. Uniontown police said Tina Schoch was sleeping with her 2-year-old and infant sons when a bullet pierced her window late Saturday at the Pershing Court complex. Police said Schoch was awakened by a noise, but didn't realize what happened until Monday. Police said she was cleaning on Monday, saw a bullet hole and opened a dresser drawer to find the bullet. Police have sent the bullet to a state police crime lab for testing. So far, they haven't linked the bullet to a shooter or charged anyone in connection with it. Uniontown is about 40 miles south of Pittsburgh.

Science & Technology

Text-a-Tip programs allow tipsters to help police

In this Oct. 27, 2009 photo, officer Michael Charbonnier, of the Boston Police Department's Crime Stoppers Unit, takes down information during a phone call to the Crime Stoppers Unit at a police station in Boston.

AP

BOSTON (AP)—A mother in Boston tells police her 8-year-old boy was shot to death in their apartment by gunmen in hooded sweat shirts during a home invasion.

Officers later receive a text message from an anonymous tipster that leads them to a much different conclusion: the boy's 7-year-old cousin accidentally shot him while the two boys were playing with a loaded 9 mm handgun.

Meanwhile, authorities in Douglas County, Colo., thwarted a threatened Columbine-style attack after an anonymous text about a student's "kill list" led them to weapons in the child's home.

After struggling for years with an anti-snitching culture that made witnesses too afraid to come forward, police across the country are getting help from text-a-tip programs that allow people to send anonymous, text messages from their cell phones.

In Boston, the first city to heavily promote texting for crime tips, police have received more than 1,000 tips since the program began two years ago. Police credit text tips for providing them with key leads in at least four high-profile killings, including: the accidental shooting of Liquarry Jefferson by his cousin; an arson fire that killed two children; the shooting of a Boston teenager on her 18th birthday; and the fatal stabbing of a man during a bar fight.

Officer Michael Charbonnier, who oversees the program, said people who live in high-crime neighborhoods are often afraid that if they talk to police, they could be hurt or even killed by gang members, drug dealers or other criminals.

"It's either call 911 or live with the bad guy. And if you call, there could be repercussions," Charbonnier said.

"So when they have this option of texting us—knowing no one will know who they are—well, now, people give us license plate numbers, they give us names," he said.

In the past, people feared retaliation for talking to police, but with the texting programs, police never see the tipster's name or telephone number. The text messages are sent to a separate, third-party server, where identifying information is stripped out and they are assigned an encrypted alias before being sent to police.

Texting programs have caught on across the country. The exact number is hard to pinpoint, but Anderson Software, one of the leading providers of technology for text-a-tip programs, has at least 400 law enforcement agencies as clients, including Tucson, Ariz., Savannah, Ga., Hartford, Conn., San Diego, Seattle and Miami.

Company founder Kevin Anderson said text-a-tip programs are rapidly gaining popularity and could soon become as popular as anonymous Web tip programs, which have been around for about five years.

"You want to provide the means of communication people are most comfortable with, and right now, texting is the more comfortable means of communicating for young people," Anderson.

The system allows a tipster to send a text message of up to 160 characters to police, who are then able to send text messages back to the sender to ask follow-up questions. Charbonnier said that because of the two-way communication, Boston police have been able to get the information they need. He said police, who promise tipsters confidentiality and anonymity, have never tried to get a tipster's identity from the third-party company, either by asking for it or through a subpoena.

"The reality is the protection of the tipster is more important than any one case," he said.

Police would not release transcripts of the actual text messages they receive or give specifics on how the tips have led them to suspects, citing the confidentiality they promise tipsters.

Charbonnier said police use the tips as leads and have to corroborate the information given by tipsters, so the tipsters themselves aren't called to court to testify.

Some police departments have heavily promoted the texting service in schools, leading to a flurry of tips about students having drugs and weapons.

In Douglas County, Colo., the sheriff's office got a text message in May from a high school student who said another student had a "kill list." Authorities never found the list but did find weapons in the student's home.

"We did believe it was a credible threat," said Phyllis Harvey, who administers the Text-A-Tip program for the Douglas County Sheriff's Office.

"Did we prevent something? Maybe, maybe not. We don't know if the student was actually going to go through with the threats that he was making, but we would like to hope that we did prevent something."

In Springfield, Mass., the texting program was just days old last month when police received a tip about a crack house. Police raided the house, made eight arrests and shut down the headquarters of a crack distribution ring, said Sgt. John Delaney.

"People don't want to be labeled as a rat," Delaney said. "This is breaking the barriers down."

At the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, campus police have promoted the text-a-tip service as a way to keep rowdy football fans under control during games.

"We get tips like 'three guys who are non-students are being rude and obnoxious behind us,' 'someone is cutting in line at the student gate,'" said Carey Drayton, chief of USC's Department of Public Safety.

"Those are things that could turn into fights. We are trying to stop things before they get too big," he said.

Boston police say the anonymous nature of the text-a-tip service, combined with police foot and bicycle patrols in violent neighborhoods, has helped them build trust with people and put a dent in the anti-snitching attitude that was prevalent for years. Five years ago, some court spectators even wore "Stop Snitchin'" T-shirts to the trial of two men charged in the shooting death of a 10-year-old girl.

"We've made a significant amount of progress in connecting with the community," said Police Commissioner Ed Davis. "That makes a big difference when you're dealing with the whole snitching situation."

Pulitzers change rules to allow more online work

NEW YORK (AP)—The Pulitzer Prize board announced Wednesday that it will open its doors wider to journalism entries from online-only news publications.

The Pulitzer board changed its entry requirements a year ago to allow entries from Internet-only publications in all 14 journalism categories if the Web site was "primarily dedicated" to original news reporting.

The board said Wednesday it will drop that requirement. The board will also allow entries from Web sites that primarily publish commentary and links to other sites.

"The revised rule will provide more flexibility as we focus on the merit of an entry rather than the mission of the Web site where it appeared," said Sig Gissler, administrator of the prizes.

Consistent with its historic focus on daily and weekly newspapers, the board will continue to exclude entries from magazines and broadcast media and their respective Web sites.

The Pulitzer Prizes are the most prestigious awards in journalism and are presented each year by Columbia University.

Scott Bosley, executive director of the American Society of News Editors, called the change in eligibility rules "a logical way of adapting to the change in the landscape."

Bosley noted that ASNE changed its name this year from the American Society of Newspaper Editors to the American Society of News Editors and broadened its membership to include editors of Web-only publications.

"We didn't go out of the newspaper realm until this year," Bosley said. "And now we do."

Roy Peter Clark, senior scholar at the St. Petersburg, Fla.-based Poynter Institute, a journalism school, said the Pulitzer board has historically adapted to changes in the way journalism is practiced, for example by adding categories such as feature writing and explanatory writing.

"I admire the way in which the board has taken very seriously the new forms of journalistic expression and ... found ways to broaden the scope of the prizes," Clark said.

Gissler declined to provide an example of a Web site that would be eligible for a Pulitzer Prize under the new rules.

He said the board would continue to monitor developments in digital journalism.

Microsoft says some Windows PCs get 'black screen'

SEATTLE (AP)—Microsoft Corp. says it's not to blame for a problem that is causing a "limited" number of Windows computers to boot up to a blank black screen.

The problem is cropping up on computers running the new Windows 7 software as well as Windows XP and Vista.

Microsoft says its customer service department doesn't consider the black screen problem a "broad customer issue." It hasn't identified the problem but says some malicious programs on the Internet are known to cause black screens.

A British security company called Prevx says 50,000 people have downloaded a tool it offers to fix the problem.

HELP FILE

By ROB PEGORARO
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

Q: I'm having issues with the MSN software Verizon gave me. Is there a newer version, or should I get another program?

A: MSN Premium, for those who forget when Microsoft covered the Web with ads featuring the MSN butterfly logo, is a combination of software and services (get.msn.com) that you can buy for $9.95 a month or get bundled with broadband services—though some, such as Verizon, no longer advertise it to new users.

MSN's services are nothing special—you can get most of them free at Microsoft's Windows Live site. But the MSN Explorer software, a Windows-only all-in-one combination of Web browser, e-mail client and other Internet tools, is the real problem. Readers have complained about performance and compatibility issues, and Microsoft doesn't seem to have put serious effort into it in years. (A Microsoft spokesman said the release of an updated 10.0 version was "imminent" but offered zero information about its features.)

But Microsoft doesn't make it easy to move from MSN, either. That same spokesman wrote that "we don't provide data migration tools to move customers to other internet applications today"—making this program a prison as far as your e-mail is concerned.

You may, in fact, have some options, depending on your versions of MSN and Windows. If you run Microsoft's Outlook, you can try using its Outlook Connector program (office.microsoft.com/en-us/help/HA011000051033.aspx) and use that to get your e-mail and contacts. User postings online suggest that an export option on its Mail Settings screen can work to move saved messages to Outlook Express, assuming you still run Windows XP. Finally, a volunteer-run tech support site (belfiore.mvps.org) collects tips about this software, including a tip about exporting your Web bookmarks.

None of these work-arounds may work in your case—but none should be necessary in any case. Microsoft should put MSN Premium out of its misery, but not before adding a data-export feature that works with current Web and mail software. After all the effort the company put into promoting MSN earlier in this decade, that's the least it can do now.

Rob Pegoraro attempts to untangle computing conundrums and errant electronics each week.

Life & Style

WH social aide won't testify about gatecrashers

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House is refusing to send its social secretary to Congress on Thursday to testify about the gatecrashing at last week's state dinner—a decision that prompted complaints from the top Republican on the committee holding the hearing.

Another House Republican emerged from a closed Secret Service briefing to blame the episode on a Secret Service officer who let an attention-hungry couple through the first security checkpoint although the pair had no invitation to President Barack Obama's first state dinner. But a top Obama administration official also laid a share of the responsibility on the White House staff.

The ranking GOP member of the House Homeland Security committee, Rep. Peter King of New York, was the first to ask that White House social secretary Desiree Rogers, herself a guest at the dinner, be called to testify at Thursday's hearing.

By not sending Rogers, King said, "the White House is creating a needless confrontation and is raising serious issues about its judgment on the night of the state dinner."

Secret Service Director Mark Sullivan has agreed to testify. Lawmakers are waiting to hear if party crashers Tareq and Michaele Salahi would accept the committee's invitation as well.

The Salahis have been trying to land a part on a Bravo reality show, "The Real Housewives of D.C.," and were filmed by the Bravo show around town as they prepared for the White House dinner.

Defending the decision not to let Rogers testify, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs cited the separation of powers and a history of White House staff not testifying before Congress. Gibbs also said the first family is "quite pleased" with Rogers' performance.

In the past, at state dinners and similar events, a member of the White House social office or other White House staff stood with the Secret Service as guests entered. No one from the White House was with the Secret Service on Nov. 24. There were no plans for a White House staff member to be there, and it was the Secret Service's responsibility to make sure the guests were on the approved list.

"After reviewing our actions, it is clear that the White House did not do everything we could have done to assist the United States Secret Service in ensuring that only invited guests enter the complex," White House Deputy Chief of Staff Jim Messina wrote in a memo Wednesday to the staff about the new procedures.

The Secret Service has admitted it should not have let the Salahis in and is investigating how it happened.

AP

White House Social Secretary Desiree Rogers arrives for a State Dinner hosted by President Barack Obama for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the White House in Washington, in this photo taken Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009.

Muppets take the Web with 'Bohemian Rhapsody'

NEW YORK (AP)—Much like the Muppets took Manhattan, they have taken the Web.

Since debuting last week, the Muppet parody of the classic music video of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody" has been viewed more than 8.6 million times on YouTube. It's an exceptional hit for the first video posted on a new YouTube channel by the Muppets Studio, the Walt Disney Company subsidiary formed in 2004 after the Jim Henson Company sold the franchise.

A Twitter feed has also been launched. (It's mostly promotional; Kermit isn't blogging.) And a Facebook page has been started.

Muppets Studio general manager Lylle Breier said the online push for the Muppets was designed to help reboot the franchise and quickly get new content to fans.

"When the Muppets came into real popularity was the '70s. What was popular in the '70s? Variety shows—that's what `The Muppet Show' was," said Breier. "What's the Web? It's a giant variety show. That's why the Muppets fit so perfectly. Parody has always been at the heart of what the Muppets do."

Breier said the Muppets singing "Bohemian Rhapsody" had long been an idea on the back burner, but the project only recently came together.

In it, just about every famous Muppet character makes a cameo: Gonzo and his chickens appear in silhouette; Rowlf plays piano; Beaker supplies his normal "meep-meep-meep-meep"; Dr. Teeth and the Electric Mayhem rock out.

New 'toon continues Disney trend toward diversity

LOS ANGELES (AP)—For most of the last century, the Disney 'toon heroine was as white as, well... Snow White, the studio's first feature-film superstar, who marked her debut in 1937's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs."

It would take some 60 years for the Disney artists to begin painting their leading ladies with all the colors of the wind, including the American Indian Pocahontas (1995), the Chinese Mulan (1998) and the Hawaiian Lilo (2002).

Only now, with "The Princess and the Frog," have Disney animators put a black female front and center. Ironically, the inspiration for the new film came from two Caucasian men: current Pixar-Disney chief John Lasseter and the late Walt Disney himself.

"The story really came from an initial idea of doing an American fairy tale, which hadn't been done at Disney," said "Princess" co-director Ron Clements. "And setting it in New Orleans, which is John Lasseter's favorite city in the world. It was Walt Disney's favorite city in the world ... Out of that, it seemed natural that the heroine would be African-American."

AP

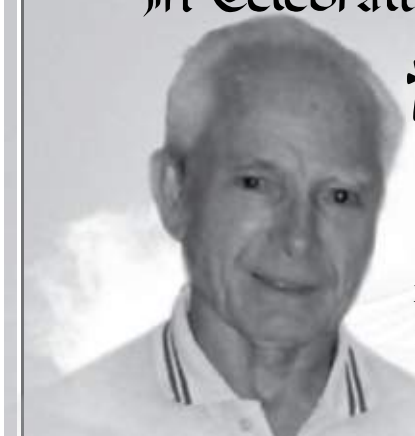
White House Social Secretary Desiree Rogers arrives for a State Dinner hosted by President Barack Obama for Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh at the White House in Washington, in this photo taken Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2009.

Discussion of the character's race had some of the film's principals bristling. "We walk around being black every day, and nobody talks about it," noted Anika Noni Rose, who supplies the voice of lead Princess Tiana. "So, I suggest you follow your instinct and let it be nothing to be talked about."

Yet the "Dreamgirls" actress continued to talk: "The big deal is that it will quietly affirm to young brown-skinned children that they are special in this world," Rose said. "And I think that it is a bigger deal to those of us who grew up without it and are now adults and have been waiting for it. It's exciting to us, because we know how important it is to our children to have, to be image affirmed."

Production was started on "Princess" in March 2006, long before the election of a new American president. "We tried to arrange that," joked co-director John Musker. "We voted for Obama," Musker continued. "That was about as much influence as we had on things."

In Celebration of His New Life



†Eduardo Bruggemann Flores

Affectionately known as *"EDDIE"*

of Saipan, was called to his Eternal Life on November 27, 2009 (Friday) at the age of 75.

Predeceased by

Wife: Maximina Reyes Flores
Parents: Joaquin Aguon Flores & Yerma Bruggemann
Parents In-Law: Vicente Cruz Reyes & Maria Guzman San Nicolas

Sisters & Brothers In-Law:

†Dolores & †Manuel Reyes, †Teresa Flores, †Federico Francisco& †Rosalia Flores, †Angelina & †Antonio Camacho & †Vicente Borja, †Maria & †Francisco Borja, †Elizabeth & †Manuel Camacho, †Victoria Flores, †Benjamin & †Magdalena Flores, †Leonardo Flores, †Cecilia & †Jesus Boyer

Brothers & Sisters In-Law:

†Joaquin & †Juana Reyes, †Benbinido & †Vicenta Reyes, †Prudencio & †Delgadina Reyes, †Jose & †Catalina Reyes, †Mariano & †Beatrice Reyes, †Luis & †Antonia Reyes, †Ursula Reyes, †Estefania & †Tobias Muna, †Ana R & Jose Castro, †Remedio R. & †Ignatio Delacruz

His memory will live forever in the hearts of his:

Children & Families : Lydia F. & Arthur Santos & Children
Edwin F. & Ellen Barcinas & Children
Rebecca F. & Henry Pangelinan & Children
Edward F. & Maryann Agulto & Children
Fermin F. & Sophie Dela Cruz & Children
Alfred F. & Elihsa Wenio & Children
Janet F. & Juan Torres & Children
Anthony F. & Ramona Sablan & Children

Reared Son & Family : James P. & Maryann P. Reyes & Children

Sisters & Brothers In-Law : Estefania F. & +Vicente Camacho
Fermin F. & Rosalia Borja
Augustin F. & Carmen Tudela
Susana Reyes & +Mariano Mendiola
Magdelena F. & Vicente Santos
Baldobino F. & Andresina Torres & Bessie
Rosa Flores
Isabel F. & Maximo Tudela
Marino Flores
Joaquin F. & Rosita Perez

Brothers & In-Laws : Donicio & Rosa Reyes
+Alfonso & Anuncia Reyes

He is additionally survived by numerous Great Grand Children, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews and God-children

Daily mass is being offered at 6:00am and nightly rosary is being prayed at 7:00pm at San Jose Church in Oleai. On Saturday, December 05, 2009, his remains will be escorted from Borja Funeral Home at 7:30am to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please Join Us In Prayers
Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase!

Lydia, Edwin, Rebecca, Edward, Fermin, Alfred, Janet, Anthony & Family

Itzhak Perlman fiddles against polio

NEW YORK (AP)—Itzhak Perlman was afflicted with polio when he was 4. Now, 60 years later he's helping to rid the world of the disease.

The celebrated violinist is performing Wednesday night with the New York Philharmonic in a special concert at Lincoln Center. The sponsor, Rotary International, is in the midst of a campaign to raise $200 million to fight the disease, which can cause paralysis or death.

With the development of vaccines, the number of polio cases has gone from 350,000 in 1988 to about 2,000 as of three years ago, according to World Health Organization figures. Last year, only four countries—Afghanistan, India, Nigeria and Pakistan—had cases of the disease, according to the WHO.

"There's absolutely no excuse for anybody getting polio at this day and age," Perlman said.

As a boy, Perlman recalled hours before the concert, he enjoyed jumping on his bed in his home in Tel Aviv, Israel. Suddenly one day, he said, "I was very weak and I couldn't do it. It was the first indication that something was wrong, that I couldn't really do what I did before."

He doesn't remember much about the treatment, just getting fitted for special shoes and leg braces. However, because he was so young, he was able to adjust to life with paralyzed legs.

"It was just one of those things that that's what I have to do now," he said. "I have to walk with crutches and braces. That's the new me."

Within a year, he started his studies on the violin.

"I wanted to play when I was 3, 3 1/2. Today a lot of people do that but then, it was decided I was a little too young. So I had the polio then and they said, 'So you still want to do it?' The answer is, 'Why not?' Polio didn't affect my hands; it affected my feet. It did not affect the ability to move my arms to play."

The rest, as they say, is history.

Perlman has thrilled millions with his music—in concert halls, on "Sesame Street" and in movie theaters. He has won four Emmy awards for TV appearances, his recordings have won 15 Grammy awards, and he was the violin soloist on the Oscar-winning movie "Schindler's List."

In this May 11, 2009 file photo, violinist Itzhak Perlman performs at Lincoln Center's 50th anniversary ceremony at Alice Tully Hall in New York.

AP

Judge dismisses libel lawsuit against Dixie Chicks

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—The Dixie Chicks can't be sued for libel by the stepfather of one of three 8-year-old boys killed in Arkansas 15 years ago because singer Natalie Maines based her statements on legal documents she believed were true, a federal judge ruled.

The band was sued by Terry Hobbs, whose stepson Stevie Branch, was one of three 8-year-old boys slain in 1993. Hobbs claimed Maines accused him of the killings in a letter posted on the band's Web site and in comments she made at a Little Rock rally in 2007 in support of the three men convicted in the deaths.

Maines, who's from Lubbock, Texas, had become convinced that Damien Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley, known as the West Memphis Three, were innocent after watching documentaries on the case. Her letter seeking donations for the trio's legal defense fund mentioned a DNA test that found a hair belonging to Hobbs on a shoelace used to bind one of the murdered boys.

"I am confident that you will see the DNA evidence is irrefutable and that these three men did not get the kind of trial that is promised to us—as Americans," Maines' letter said.

AP

In this file photo made Dec. 19, 2007, Dixie Chicks lead singer Natalie Maines speaks at a rally on behalf of an organization seeking release or new trials for three Arkansas prison inmates in Little Rock, Ark.

Echols was sentenced to death for the killings, while Baldwin and Misskelley were sentenced to life in prison. Courts have repeatedly rejected their appeals for a new trial.

'Twilight,' 'Sopranos' stars bound for Sundance

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Dramas featuring "Twilight" star Kristen Stewart, Natalie Portman and "The Sopranos" co-stars James Gandolfini and Edie Falco are in the hunt for awards at the Sundance Film Festival.

Robert Redford's independent-film showcase next month includes director Jake Scott's New Orleans drama "Welcome to the Rileys," which co-stars Gandolfini and Stewart. Falco is among the cast of Eric Mendelsohn's suburban drama "3 Backyards," while Portman stars alongside Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Rainn Wilson in Spencer Susser's family tale "Hesher."

The films are among 16 screening in Sundance's U.S. dramatic competition and were selected from more than 1,000 movies submitted to the festival, which runs Jan. 21-31 in Park City, Utah.

Other titles announced Wednesday include Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman's "Howl," an Allen Ginsberg tale starring James Franco, Mary-Louise Parker, Jon Hamm and David Strathairn; Tanya Hamilton's racial drama "Night Catches Us," with Anthony Mackie and Kerry Washington; and Kevin Tyler Asch's Ecstasy-smuggling crime story "Holy Rollers," featuring Jesse Eisenberg.

Sundance is dispensing with its opening-night tradition of premiering a film that is not competing for a prize. Instead, it will start with screenings of one dramatic competition film and one entry in the documentary competition. Those opening films will be announced later.

"We decided to launch into the competition rather than trying to find a film that encapsulates the whole eclectic group that follows," said John Cooper, a longtime Sundance programmer who is overseeing the show for the first time after being promoted to festival director in March.

The competition presents stars of past top prize winners at Sundance. Among them are Derek Cianfrance's marital drama "Blue Valentine," with Michelle Williams and Ryan Gosling, who starred in the festival's 2001 grand jury award winner "The Believer."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS
Don't just go to the movies, GO HOLLYWOOD!
Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000
POWER 99 FM SAIPAN, CNMI
$5.50 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
$5.50 All Day Admission For Seniors
$4.50 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
$5.50 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
$5.50 Military with Valid I.D.
TUESDAY BARGAIN $5.50 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT (EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)
RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com
dts DOLBY DIGITAL STADIUM SEATING WITH HIGH-BACK LOVESEATS
For Friday, December 4th through Thursday, December 10th
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK
NOW SHOWING

Old Dogs
Friday 4:25 7:15 9:30
Saturday 1:25 4:25 7:15 9:30
Sunday 1:25 4:25 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:15
John Travolta, Robin Williams
Comedy, Family • Rated PG
Synopsis
Two best friends—one unlucky-in-love divorcee and the other a fun-loving bachelor—have their lives turned upside down when they're unexpectedly charged with the care of 7-year-old twins while on the verge of the biggest business deal of their lives. The not-so-kid-savvy bachelors stumble in their efforts to take care of the twins, leading to one debacle after another, and perhaps to a new-found understanding of what's really important in life.

Ninja Assassin
Friday 4:30 7:10 9:40
Saturday 1:10 4:30 7:10 9:40
Sunday 1:10 4:30 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:10
Rain, Rick Yune
Action • Rated R
Synopsis
Raizo is one of the deadliest assassins in the world. Taken from the streets as a child, he was transformed into a trained killer by the Ozunu Clan, a secret society whose very existence is considered a myth. But haunted by the merciless execution of his friend by the Clan, Raizo breaks free from them...and vanishes. Now he waits, preparing to exact his revenge. In Berlin, Europol agent Mika Coretti has stumbled upon a money trail linking several political murders to an underground network of untraceable assassins from the Far East.

Paranormal Activity
Friday 4:10 7:30 9:50
Saturday 1:20 4:10 7:30 9:50
Sunday 1:20 4:10 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:30
Katie Featherston, Micah Sloat
Thriller, Horror • Rated R
Synopsis
After a young, middle class couple moves into what seems like a typical suburban "starter" tract house, they become increasingly disturbed by a presence that may or may not be demonic, but is certainly most active in the middle of the night. Especially when they sleep. Or try to.

Twilight Saga: New Moon
Friday 4:00 7:00 9:45
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 9:45
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Thriller, Romance • Rated PG 13

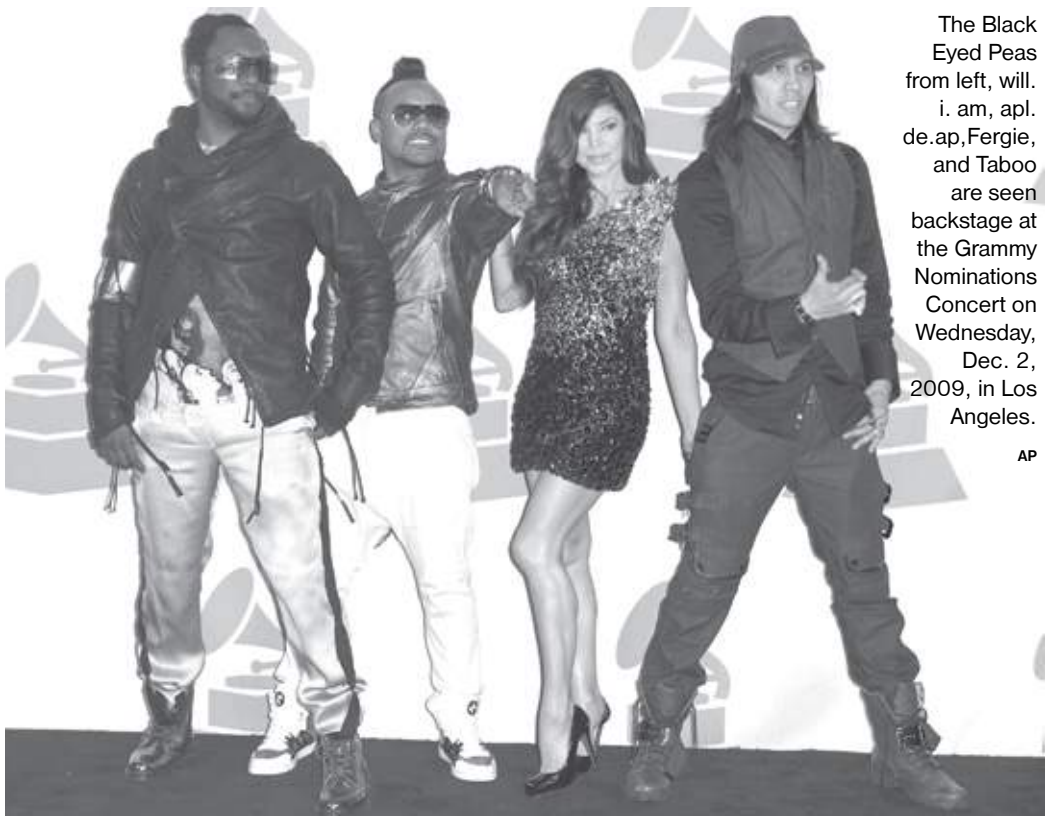
2012
Friday 4:05 7:05 10:10
Saturday 1:05 4:05 7:05 10:10
Sunday 1:05 4:05 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:05
John Cusack, Amanda Peet
Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13

Planet 51
Friday 4:20 7:20 9:35
Saturday 1:30 4:20 7:20 9:35
Sunday 1:30 4:20 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:20
Gary Oldman, Jessica Biel
Comedy, Adventure • Rated PG 13

The Blind Side
Friday 4:15 7:25 10:00
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:25 10:00
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:25
Sandra Bullock, Tim McGraw
Drama, Biopic • Rated PG 13

● NO PASSES ■ NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS
GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.
www.gohollywood.com

Beyonce leads Grammy nominations with 10



The Black Eyed Peas from left, will. i. am, apl. de.ap,Fergie, and Taboo are seen backstage at the Grammy Nominations Concert on Wednesday, Dec. 2, 2009, in Los Angeles.

AP

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Beyonce has enough Grammy nominations for her and Sasha Fierce.

The omnipresent diva garnered the most Grammy nominations on Thursday with 10 nods, including nominations for album of the year for "I Am ... Sasha Fierce," song of the year for her anthem "Single Ladies (Put a Ring On It)" and record of the year for "Halo."

Taylor Swift wasn't far behind Beyonce, getting eight nominations. She was also nominated for album, song and record of the year, as was Lady Gaga, who got five nominations.

The Black Eyed Peas, Maxwell and Kanye West got six nominations each.

Swiss to place Polanski under house arrest Friday

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—After more than two months in a Swiss jail, Roman Polanski will be placed under house arrest at his Alpine chalet on Friday, authorities said.

The 76-year-old director must stay in the house and wear an electronic bracelet as officials decide whether to extradite him to the U.S. for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl, the authorities said.

Polanski will be transferred on Friday to Gstaad," said Folco Galli, the Swiss Justice Ministry spokesman. He said the filmmaker could be in his home by early afternoon.

Galli said Wednesday that he would not comment further until Polanski was delivered to the chalet.

The director of such film classics as "Rosemary's Baby," "Chinatown" and "The Pianist" won a decision last week granting him bail, but was being held by authorities until he paid the full $4.5 million demanded by court. Swiss standards differ from countries such as the United States where bail bondsmen often post a percentage of the total.

Polanski has been in Swiss custody since being arrested Sept. 26 on a U.S. warrant as he arrived in Zurich to receive a lifetime achievement award at a film festival. Authorities in Los Angeles want him returned to be sentenced after 31 years as a fugitive.

He has been held at a jail in Winterthur, near Zurich, where recent visitors have included his Swiss lawyer and the French general consul. But it was unclear if he will be transferred directly form Winterthur to Gstaad, or taken somewhere else first to be fitted with the electronic monitoring device.

Looted artifacts being returned to Italy from NYC

NEW YORK (AP)—Two stolen ancient artifacts are being returned to Italy from New York City.

An Italian government representative is taking possession of them at a ceremony Wednesday. The artifacts are a Pompeii plaster wall painting and a Corinthian vase for mixing water and wine.

They were recovered by immigration and customs officials in June. Both items had been scheduled for auction in New York before they were discovered to have been stolen.

Immigration officials said the vase may have been illegally introduced into the art market by Giacomo Medici (JAH'-kuh-moh MEH'-dih-chee) in 1985. The art dealer was convicted in Rome in 2004 of conspiracy to traffic in antiquities.

The wall painting was reported stolen in Italy in 1997.

This undated photo provided by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement shows an ancient plaster wall painting that was stolen from Italy, turned up in New York, and is headed back to Italy.

AP

4 plead not guilty in LA to celebrity burglaries

AP

Defendant Nicholas Prugo leaves a court hearing Wednesday Dec. 2, 2009 in Los Angeles after pleading not guilty to felony burglary charges.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Four people accused of breaking into the homes of Paris Hilton, Lindsay Lohan and other celebrities pleaded not guilty Wednesday to charges involving the theft of $3 million in jewelry, designer clothes and other items.

The suspects include 19-year-olds Nicholas Prugo, Diana Tamayo and Courtney Leigh Ames, and 27-year-old Roy Lopez Jr. All four are charged with felony burglary.

A judge on Tuesday ordered a fifth defendant, Alexis Neiers, to stand trial on a felony burglary charge related to a break-in at Orlando Bloom's home. She previously pleaded not guilty to the July break-in.

Prugo faces seven counts of first-degree burglary for break-ins at the homes of stars including Lohan, Hilton, Bloom and Rachel Bilson.

Prugo's attorney, Sean Erenstoft, has asked that his client's case be separated from the rest of the group, arguing that Prugo's statements to authorities already had been used at Neiers' preliminary hearing.

Prugo confessed to detectives about the burglaries and implicated several suspects, according to a Las Vegas search warrant released last month. He placed blame for the thefts on a Las Vegas woman who has not been charged.

Superior Court Commissioner Donald Kennedy denied Erenstoft's motion Wednesday, saying it was premature.

Lopez's attorney, David D. Diamond, denied after the hearing that his client was involved in a break-in at Hilton's home.

Robert Schwartz, who represents Ames, said he couldn't comment in detail about the case until after he reviewed newly provided evidence from prosecutors. Tamayo's attorney, Howard Levy, did not immediately return a call seeking comment

Man's stubborn silence causes family to panic

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I have been married to "Mick" for 22 years—most of them happy. My problem is his communication skills. I have always had a hard time contacting him. He has a cell phone, but won't take it out of his vehicle.

Recently, our daughter came home from college. We had planned to go to dinner with her and her boyfriend. When Mick didn't show up, I tried without success to contact him. My daughter tried and then my son did, too. This went on for an hour and a half. We were worried sick, so we started calling his friends and co-workers—anyone who might know his whereabouts.

Abby, I have a serious heart condition that could send me to the hospital at any time.

Mick finally called back and said he had gotten distracted talking with an old friend. He acted like we were crazy for being concerned, and insists he did nothing wrong.

All I have ever asked is that my husband and kids give me a quick call to let me know if they're going to be late so I won't worry. My son and daughter do it, but Mick refuses. He says he's the breadwinner, and he should not have to answer to anyone. I have put up with this for years, but now I have had enough. What do you think?

SICK AND TIRED OF IT, IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SICK AND TIRED OF IT: Candidly, I think Mick is acting more like a rebellious teenager rather than a caring husband. Because he has been this way for 22 years, I seriously doubt he is capable of change. That's why I also think you should talk to your attorney about adding another family member to your Advance Directive for Health Care, in case you have a medical emergency and your husband is—as usual—unreachable. Please give this the serious consideration it deserves because your life could depend on it.

DEAR ABBY: I married "Marge" 18 months ago. It was a second marriage for both of us. We agreed to sell our homes and buy something together. Mine sold and now I'm in her house.

Things were going fine until Marge's daughter and son-in-law moved back in. It was supposed to be a three- or four-day stay, but it's now into the fifth week. They always claim to be right on the edge of leaving.

Marge enjoys having her daughter near her, but this is stressful for me. They sleep until noon every day and stay up late. They enjoy all that we have earned throughout our lives, and offer nothing in the way of rent.

I am not allowed to complain. I have been given the option to say "Go," but I know it will cause hard feelings from them and Marge. I am to the point where I'm ready to move out.

TRAPPED IN THEIR HOUSE

DEAR TRAPPED: More troubling than the fact you appear to have been invaded by freeloaders is that you say you are "not allowed" to voice your feelings about it. Marriage is supposed to be a partnership of equals, and if one partner is not happy, healthy couples work out an agreeable solution together. Because you have been unable to do this, I recommend marriage counseling before you pack your bags.

With counseling I'm hoping you and Marge can form a united front in telling "the kids" they have a deadline to be out instead of you being forced into the role of "bad guy." Moving out should be your last option, because once you do, the move may be permanent.

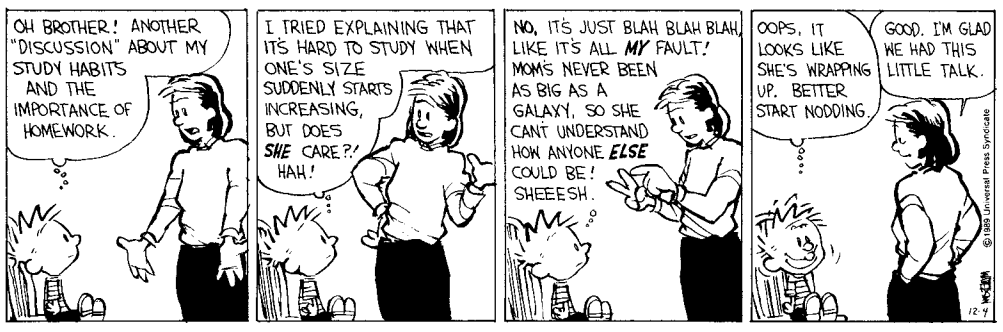
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $12 (U.S. funds)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


OH BROTHER! ANOTHER "DISCUSSION" ABOUT MY STUDY HABITS AND THE IMPORTANCE OF HOMEWORK.
I TRIED EXPLAINING THAT IT'S HARD TO STUDY WHEN ONE'S SIZE SUDDENLY STARTS INCREASING, BUT DOES SHE CARE?! HAH!
NO, IT'S JUST BLAH BLAH BLAH, LIKE IT'S ALL MY FAULT! MOM'S NEVER BEEN AS BIG AS A GALAXY, SO SHE CAN'T UNDERSTAND HOW ANYONE ELSE COULD BE! SHEEESH.
OOPS, IT LOOKS LIKE SHE'S WRAPPING UP. BETTER START NODDING.
GOOD. I'M GLAD WE HAD THIS LITTLE TALK.
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate

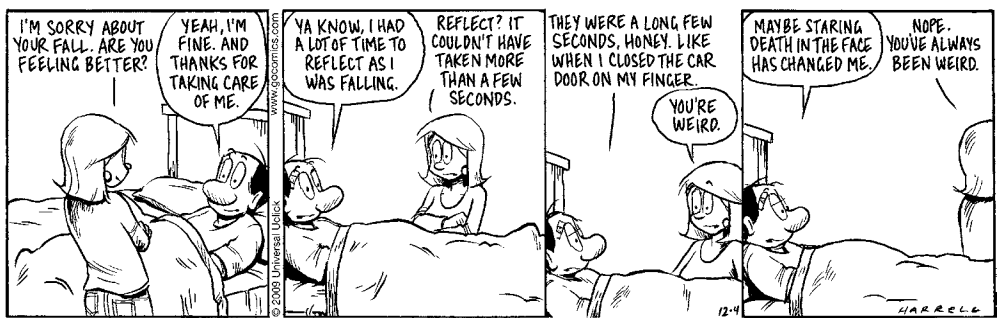
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

JON'S RIGHT. I HAVEN'T BEEN VERY GOOD THIS YEAR. MAYBE I'D BETTER START
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
www.garfield.com
OW
JIM DAVIS 12-4
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

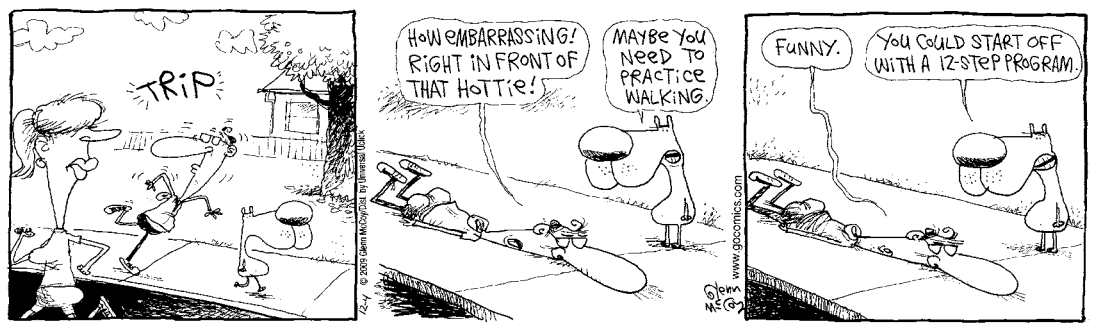
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


I'M SORRY ABOUT YOUR FALL. ARE YOU FEELING BETTER?
YEAH, I'M FINE. AND THANKS FOR TAKING CARE OF ME.
YA KNOW, I HAD A LOT OF TIME TO REFLECT AS I WAS FALLING.
REFLECT? IT COULDN'T HAVE TAKEN MORE THAN A FEW SECONDS.
THEY WERE A LONG, FEW SECONDS, HONEY. I LIKE WHEN I CLOSED THE CAR DOOR ON MY FINGER.
YOU'RE WEIRD.
MAYBE STARING DEATH IN THE FACE HAS CHANGED ME.
NOPE. YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN WEIRD.
© 2009 Universal Uclick www.gocomics.com
12-4
HARRELL

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


TRIP
HOW EMBARRASSING! RIGHT IN FRONT OF THAT HOTTIE!
MAYBE YOU NEED TO PRACTICE WALKING
FUNNY.
YOU COULD START OFF WITH A 12-STEP PROGRAM.
© 2009 Glenn McCoy/dist. by Universal Uclick
www.gocomics.com

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Subordinate Clauses?
6 Kreskin's claim
9 Performance
12 Percolate
13 Multipurpose truck
14 Shad product
15 Special domain
16 Masked bandit?
18 Not so hot
20 Pumps up the volume
21 Miss Piggy's pronoun
23 Tibetan beast
24 Wooden box
25 Twinge, as of hunger
27 Indistinct
29 Tale of Danny and Sandy
31 Legendary monster, familiarly
35 Haile Selassie disciple
37 "Smooth Operator" singer
38 Humdinger
41 Historic time
43 Anti
44 Decorative case for pins
45 Cheap Monopoly avenue
47 Dionysus' alias
49 Speechify
52 Will Smith biopic
53 Raw rock
54 "Psycho" setting
55 "Comin' Thro' the —"
56 Conclusion
57 Furtive sort

DOWN
1 Bygone times, in bygone times
2 Romanian coin
3 H1N1 defense
4 Reverberate
5 As a wallflower might
6 Archimedes' cry
7 Luminary
8 Chest muscle, for short
9 Scent
10 Take over
11 On edge
17 Loving touch
19 Barry and Brubeck
21 Auto ad stat
22 Rowing need
24 Prompt
26 Vampire deterrent
28 Deform by twisting
30 Put into words
32 Pouchlike
33 "— not choose to run"
34 Bard's nightfall
36 Backcombed
38 Preclude
39 Leghorn's locale
40 Desi Jr.'s sister
42 Fermi's bits
45 Scorch
46 Unyielding
48 Weeding tool
50 Jetsam of 1773
51 Wapiti

Solution time: 25 mins.

H	A	U	L	■	T	A	B	■	S	W	A	T
U	R	S	A	■	A	G	O	■	E	A	C	H
R	E	E	D	■	R	E	M	■	T	I	R	E
L	A	R	I	A	T	■	B	A	T	T	E	N
■	■	■	E	M	U	■	■	P	E	R	■	■
E	L	M	S	■	F	O	R	T	R	E	S	S
B	O	A	■	■	F	B	I	■	■	S	O	U
B	U	T	T	R	E	S	S	■	I	S	L	E
■	■	■	T	A	N	■	O	H	O	■	■	■
D	O	R	S	A	L	■	T	I	D	I	E	R
A	B	E	T	■	O	U	T	■	I	D	E	A
R	O	S	E	■	F	R	O	■	N	O	L	L
N	E	S	S	■	T	I	S	■	E	L	S	E

Yesterday's answer 12-4

1	2	3	4	5	■	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
12					■	13			■	14		
15					■	16			17			
■	■	18			19			■	20			
21	22		■	23			■	24				
25			26	■	27		28			■	■	■
29				30		■	31			32	33	34
■	■	■	35			36		■	37			
38	39	40			■	41		42	■	43		
44				■	45				46		■	■
47				48			■	49			50	51
52			■	53			■	54				
55			■	56			■	57				

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tyra Banks, 36; Jay-Z, 40; Marisa Tomei, 45; Jeff Bridges, 60

Happy Birthday: You may have to do a few extra things in order to win favors this year. Pick and choose your battles wisely. Consider your early years and, if you have gotten off track, do your best to start over. It's never too late to begin again or to give your all to something you believe in. Your numbers are 3, 12, 16, 21, 32, 34, 42

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Put forth your best effort and you will reach your professional and financial goals. This is a great day to make some personal alterations to boost your confidence and enable you to do things that you may have been reluctant to try in the past. Domestic issues may surface. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Taking time out to make some much-needed changes at home will pay off. You can add value to something you have to offer. A change in a friendship will allow you the freedom to try something new. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You will be faced with far more than you anticipated, making it difficult to carry out your promises. A work-related opportunity will open up, however, compromising your code of ethics may be requested. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Whether you travel physically, mentally or down the information highway, the end result will be the same. What you learn and the people you meet will enable you to flex your muscles in a sticky situation that needs immediate attention. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Socializing will be your thing but refrain from divulging any information that may compromise you late in the day. Keep things light and playful. Romance or improving your current relationship will lead to a brighter future. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Personal problems will complicate your life. Your indifference will be what saves you if someone tries to trick you into doing something you don't want to do. Make positive changes to your personal life, regardless of what others do. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't give in to peer pressure. If something doesn't fit your lifestyle, back away. It's more important that you finish what you start and strive to reach your goals than it is to satisfy someone else's whims. ✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Turn on your Scorpio charm. Your fascination with the people you meet will bring about a very special connection, changing your way of thinking and your course of action. Someone you love will broaden your awareness. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Experience may count but so will fresh ideas and the desire to do your best. Take what information you can from the wise and rework what you learn so that it takes on your personality. Confidence and consistency will win in the end. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Take what you want and keep moving. It's slowing down that will give someone the chance to derail your plans or ideas. Love is in the stars so don't waste time if someone special wants your undivided attention. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Ask someone you feel comfortable with about a problem you are having at work or with your finances. An honest answer may not be what you want to hear but it will help you get back on the road to recovery. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Tread carefully. Not everything will be as it appears. An older or younger person in your life who has a tough situation to deal with will trigger an emotional change. Your support will make a difference. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are caring and interested in everyone and everything you encounter. You are giving, friendly and changeable and will always strive to do the unexpected.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

		4		6	2	8		
	9							
3		7		1				4
				5				3
8		2				9		6
9				4				
2				9		1		5
							6	
		1	7	8		4		

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 12/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

4	2	6	5	7	3	8	1	9
3	7	9	2	8	1	5	4	6
8	1	5	9	4	6	7	2	3
1	9	2	8	3	4	6	7	5
6	3	7	1	5	2	4	9	8
5	8	4	6	9	7	1	3	2
7	6	1	3	2	5	9	8	4
9	4	3	7	6	8	2	5	1
2	5	8	4	1	9	3	6	7

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/03

©2009 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

ERMENEGILDO ZEGNA MEN'S WEAR **Solution: 8 letters**

N	O	N	E	L	K	C	U	B	C	S	E	O	H	S
O	N	S	E	S	N	A	P	A	K	L	I	S	A	H
V	Y	B	T	N	E	V	L	N	A	I	L	A	T	I
A	X	E	A	U	I	A	I	E	E	D	E	U	S	R
R	A	L	L	O	C	L	S	L	A	H	O	N	T	T
A	I	T	T	S	F	R	E	O	E	Ⓣ	Ⓘ	Ⓔ	Ⓢ	S
M	H	S	I	F	I	Y	N	R	N	S	H	I	N	P
N	U	R	U	G	E	A	R	C	A	O	T	E	T	S
C	G	C	S	W	T	I	P	C	O	F	M	A	R	I
O	F	I	E	I	N	S	C	L	D	T	N	T	O	R
U	L	A	S	G	W	O	O	L	A	R	T	R	P	C
T	R	O	B	E	M	L	A	N	A	I	O	O	S	O
U	P	O	P	R	D	A	F	I	N	E	D	F	N	M
R	N	M	E	R	I	N	O	S	T	O	N	E	X	O
E	B	O	N	Y	G	C	A	I	N	O	L	O	C	O

© 2009 Universal Uclick www.wonderword.com 12/4

Belts, Buckle, Cavalry, Coats, Collar, Colonia, Como, Cotton, Couture, Crisp, Cufflinks, Cuts, Design, Ebony, Eyewear, Fabric, Fine, Guru, Hats, Herringbone, Isola, Italian, Lana, Leather, Linen, Men's, Merinos, Milan, Moccasins, Napa, Novara, Onyx, Oxford, Paisley, Plaid, Polo, Positano, Season, Shirt, Shoes, Silk, Soft, Sport, Suede, Suit, Ties, Tone, Trofeo, Wool

Yesterday's Answer: Save

We listened to your requests! **TREASURY #6** is the first-ever Wonderword book containing only 20 x 20 puzzles, with 75 of these large puzzles. To order, send check or money order for $10.95 each plus $3.25 p&h ($14.20 total each. U.S. funds only) for the first volume. $1.50 p&h for each additional volume, to Wonderword, Universal Uclick, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-9480. Order online at upuzzles.com.

CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Computer Repair
Only $25 Minor Problem
WE ALSO FIX LAPTOP & USED PARTS
We Buy Used Computer & Printer.
Calvary Commu 233-5641
Open 7 Days a Week 9:00 AM-9:00 PM

Kairos University
TEACHER WANTED
Looking for an English teacher
- U.S. Citizen
- Must be an Education Graduate

Location: Navy Hill (under GCA)
Please apply by email: mosoree@gmail.com
or call 322-1113, 483-1113
http:kairosuniversityus.org

TJM Lawn Care Services
WE OFFER
$30.00 per house 500 sqm
(negotiable)
Contact: Tahira S. Miah
Tel: 288-8897 • Cel: 287-8896

HELP WANTED
Looking for Sexy Dancer
• Female
• IR or Green Card holder
Please apply by email to Joon Park at crossroad44@yahoo.co.kr or call 235-2151/2331123

FOR SALE
YELLOW FLAME TREE'S
3ft-6ft $20.00–$30.00
322-5691•285-6626

WHATZIT Solution:
Pride goes before a fall

BUSINESS FOR SALE
ESL / LANGUAGE SCHOOL
Be your own Boss! 3 years in business.
Gross $3,000 per month. Expandable.
Very low overhead. Monthly Rent.
Nice on-site housing available.
Please call: 287-0215 / 235-0215
Email: zp1974@yahoo.com

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars preferably, Toyota, Nissan, Mazda, Mitsubishi, Suzuki & Isuzu. Must bee 2000 & above model. We pay cash! Please call 287-7676.

LOST PERSONAL BELONGINGS
- Bangladesh Passport – Mr. Ator
- Chinese Passport – Ms. Ye Hong Li
- Black Wallet (USD $62.00)
- And Labor Documents

Please Call: Mr. Ator 285-0015

RUSH SEPARATION LEASE (55 years)
Three (3) Buildings on 2,000 M2
- 30'x90' (7 Units Apt.) Concrete
- 30'x60' (2 Units Apt.) Semi-Concrete
- 24'x84' (3 Units Apt.) Semi-Concrete

Located: East Chalan Kanoa, Saipan
Price: Only $87,000 (Negotiable)!!!
Pls. call (670)788-7393 – Mr. Sablan

Marianas Maid Services
Are you overwhelmed at work?
Has taking care of your kids and the housework become a burden?
LET US MAKE YOUR HOME OR OFFICE
SPARKLE
Cleaning services starting as low as $40 per cleaning.
All equipment and cleaning supplies provided.
All our staff has been hand picked and are reliable.
Ironing, Laundry, Window washing and many other services available.
Contact Julie at 287-6542 to schedule an appointment.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

LION
LION LION
LION LION
LION

tumble

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

Marites N. Cadag
PMB 2049 Box 10005, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 235-1559

pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Adoption of: KYLE CLESTER CADAG, Minor Child, By: MARITES N. CADAG, Petitioner.	FCD AD Civil Action No. 09-0637 NOTICE OF HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on January 14, 2010 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 205, before the Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 19th day of November, 2009.

/s/ Bernadita Sablan
Clerk of Court

"My wish is to have my own PC with a DVD player and CD burner!"

15 years of making wishes of eligible children with life-threatening illnesses come true!

MAKE-A-WISH®

Visit us at
865 S. Marine Dr., Orlean Pacific Plaza
Ste. 104 Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-WISH
Fax: (671) 646-6293
Email: mawfguam@ite.net
www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am to 5:30pm, M-F daily

Saipan Tribune

THE FISG The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

"AS IS" CONDITION: NO WARRANTIES EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED

YEAR:	MAKE:	MODEL:	LIC NO:
2001	KIA	RIO 4DR SDN	ABS 487

The Financial & Insurance Services Group, Inc. (FISG) is now accepting sealed bids on the above mentioned vehicles at the main office located in the Cabrera Center on Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan.

FISG reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Vehicle is sold "AS IS" with No Warranties, Expressed or Implied.

Deadline for submission of bids is on Friday, December 11, 2009.

For more information, contact Diego Masga, Collection Department at 234-5706 or 234-8615.

VEHICLES FOR BID

2002
Kia Sedona

2000
Mitsubishi Montero

2000
Ford F-150 4x4 Pick Up

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL

If interested please contact Frank Ermitanio or John Blas at 235-6044.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
Tel. (670) 234-6866, 234-9447, 234-7689, 234-7670 • Fax. (670) 234-9021
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp • Website: http://www.nmhc.gov.mp

NMHC

NOTICE OF AUCTION
IN THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, hereinafter referred to as NMHC, as auctioneer and seller, hereby gives notice that all of the rights, title, and interests of the following described real property situated in Garapan, Saipan, CNMI will be sold at an auction:

Lot No. 003 D 16 (Formerly Block 1 Lot 16), as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat Number 003 D 00 dated February 19, 1971, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry on the 1st day of March, 1971, as Document No. 869, and containing an area of 1,022 square meters, more or less, together with the improvements and fixtures located thereon and therein and the appurtenances and all the rights, title, and interest of, in, and to the land lying in all streets, highways, and rights of ways abutting on or appurtenant to said premises.

Minimum Bid: The minimum bid for the property mentioned above in this notice shall be **$70,000.00**.

The auction will be open to the general public and will be held at NMHC's conference room, Garapan, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. on **Monday, December 28, 2009**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve: The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer: Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer and seller shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. To reject any and all bids.
3. Bids: Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-6866; Facsimile: 234-9021; or to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, Esq., P.O. Box 501309, Saipan, MP 96950; Telephone: 234-7455; Facsimile: 234-7256.
4. Deposit: Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within three (3) calendar days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or credit card. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within three (3) calendar days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to NMHC.
5. Change of Terms: Auctioneer and NMHC reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
6. Inspection and No Warranty: Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property; contact NMHC for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 24th day of November, 2009.

/s/ JOSHUA T. SASAMOTO, Corporate Director

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-017

Construction of Marpi Public Cemetery

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Marpi Public Cemetery, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Tuesday, November 24, 2009 at the Governor's Office of Capital Improvement, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Office of the Governor, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A $50.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed and must be paid to the CNMI Treasurer. A proof of receipt for the project package is required. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill. At the time of award, prospect bidder must obtain a U.S. Treasury Bond before a contract is executed.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Mandatory Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on December 16, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Banzai Cliff Road, Marpi adjacent to the Veteran Cemetery. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on December 17, 2009 to Mr. James R. Stump, CIP Contracting Officer, Office of the Capitol Improvement, 1st Floor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-017"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, December 28, 2009. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 4:00 p.m. local time December 28, 2009, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than December 28, 2009 and must be received no later than 4:00 p.m. January 07, 2010 (Saipan Local Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, January 08, 2010. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on December 29, 2009.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be U.S. Treasury Listed and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is two hundred seventy (270) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) five hundred dollars ($500.00.), or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by two hundred seventy (270) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ Eloy S. Inos, Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

/s/ Herman S. Sablan, Director
Procurement and Supply, DOF

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Rai
Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW 09-RFP-031

DESIGN OF COMMONWEALTH DRIVE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENT, SAIPAN

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through Secretary of Public Works, are soliciting sealed proposals for the **Design of Commonwealth Drive Drainage Improvement** on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Maraiana Islands.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2004. Article 7, "Local Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is available for this project. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with § 70-30 3-505 of the Procurement Regulations.

The Scope of Work will be available on or after November 20, 2009 at the DPW, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercial Center, Saipan. A Non-refundable payment of One Hundred Dollars (US$100.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercaial Center Office. Mandatory Pre-proposal Conference at the south side of Garapan Central Park at 10:00 A.M. on December 09, 2009. Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing to Mr. Joseph M. Inos Jr., Director, Technical Services Division, Oleai Commercail Center, Saipan, or faxed to (670)234-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m. local time December 16, 2009.

Proposers must submit with their proposal a Project Approach and Schedule of Completion, which details how the work will be accomplished by the consultants, given the time requirements and resources available as identified in their proposals.

Proposers shall also submit a separate statement of qualifications (resumes and experience). The total proposal submitted shall be no more than twenty five (25) pages in length. Note that a firm, which submits a proposal as a prime consultant, cannot submit as a subcontractor or another proposal. However, only subcontractors may be included in multiple proposals by different consultants.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications and Background of the Frim – 20%;
2. Past experience of the Firm on design projects and successfully completions- 30%;
3. Project Approach – 30%
4. Capability and ability to perform the work and completed within the time frame- 20%

Proposals must be sealed and marked **"DPW09-RFP-031"**. For proposers within the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, December 21, 2009. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than 1:00 p.m. local time, December 21, 2009 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and five (5) copies of sealed proposals may be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country prior to, but not later than, December 21, 2009 (CNMI Time) and must be received no later than December 31, 2009 (CNMI Time). Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

Performance time for completion of this project is Ninety **(90)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars **(US100.00)** per working days for delays beyond the established completion date.

Discussions shall be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required. Fee proposals are solicited; however, this information shall not be considered in the selection of the most highly qualified firms. It shall be used only determined fair and reasonable contract price to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with highest ranking qualified firm, then selection may be made from additional firms in order of comp0tetence and qualification and continue negotiations until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

The successful proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination in compliance with Section 3-30 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP shall take into account all taxes that will be charged to the prosposer awarded a contract for this project, including excise tax.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposals if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the best interest of the Government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ DIEGO B. SONGSONG
Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, Procurement & Supply

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
PA/HMGP/CIP PROGRAM – OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 664-2375 • Fax: (670) 664-2408

INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-GOV-028

Rehabilitation of the Basketball Court Facility, Koblerville

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, are soliciting sealed bids for the Koblerville Basketball Court Rehabilitation Project, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

The project package will be available Monday, December 07, 2009 at the Governor's Office of Capital Improvement, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Office of the Governor, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill. A $25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001. Public Law 15-95 Local Preference Act, as amended by Public Law 15-118 does not apply to this Federally funded project. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a Pre-bid Conference/Site Visit for this project on December 15, 2009, 9:00 a.m., local time, at the project site, Koblerville Road, Koblerville, Saipan. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time December 15, 2009 to Mr. Carl Castro, Project Coordinator, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Office of the Governor, Maug Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax to (670) 664-2408.

Sealed bids must be marked **"ITB10-GOV-028"**. An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, December 21, 2009. Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 11:00 a.m. local time, December 21, 2009. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars ($25,000.00) a bid bond of fifteen percent (15 %) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the CNMI Attorney General.

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 3-301. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. The surety company providing the Performance and Payment bonds must be authorized to conduct business in the CNMI and possess unencumbered assets equal to the penal amount of each bond. Performance time for completion of this project is sixty **(60)** calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be greater of (i) two hundred fifty dollars **($100.00)**, or (ii) two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by sixty (60) calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Tiger Woods: 'Personal failings' let family down

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP)—With a public apology and another appeal for privacy, Tiger Woods acknowledged Wednesday that he let his family down with unspecified "transgressions" that he regrets with "all of my heart." "I have not been true to my values and the behavior my family deserves," Woods said on his Web site following a magazine report of an alleged affair.

It was his longest statement since a middle-of-the-night car crash outside his Florida home last week set off the greatest media scrutiny of Woods' career and his 5-year-old marriage to former model Elin Nordegren. He did not go into detail and said he would deal with his "personal failings" with his family.

"Those feelings should be shared by us alone," he said.

Shortly after the investigation of the car accident ended Tuesday with a $164 citation for careless driving, Us Weekly reported that a Los Angeles cocktail waitress claims she had a 31-month affair with the world's No. 1 golfer.

About three hours before Woods' statement, the magazine released what it said was a voice mail—provided by the waitress, Jaimee Grubbs—that Woods left on her phone three days before his accident.

"I will strive to be a better person and the husband and father that my family deserves," Woods said on his Web site. "For all of those who have supported me over the years, I offer my profound apology."

Woods' career—as a golfer, a pitchman and perhaps the most recognized athlete in the world—has been largely without blemish since he turned pro at age 20.

Three of his sponsors—Nike, Gatorade and EA Sports—expressed support or commitment to Woods. Gillette said it had no plans to change its marketing programs. AT&T declined comment.

In the most critical comment from a player, Jesper Parnevik said he owed Nordegren an apology for introducing her to Woods. She once worked as a nanny for the Parnevik family.

"We probably thought he was a better guy than he is," Parnevik told The Golf Channel from West Palm Beach, Fla., where he is in the final stage of PGA Tour qualifying.

Police said Woods' wife told them she smashed out the back window of his Cadillac Escalade SUV with a golf club to help get him out after he struck a fire hydrant and tree.

"I would probably need to apologize to her and hope she uses a driver next time instead of a 3-iron," Parnevik said, adding that he has not spoken to Woods since the accident.

"It's a private thing, of course," the Swede said. "But when you are the guy he is—the world's best athlete—you should think more before you do stuff ... and maybe not 'Just do it,' like Nike says."

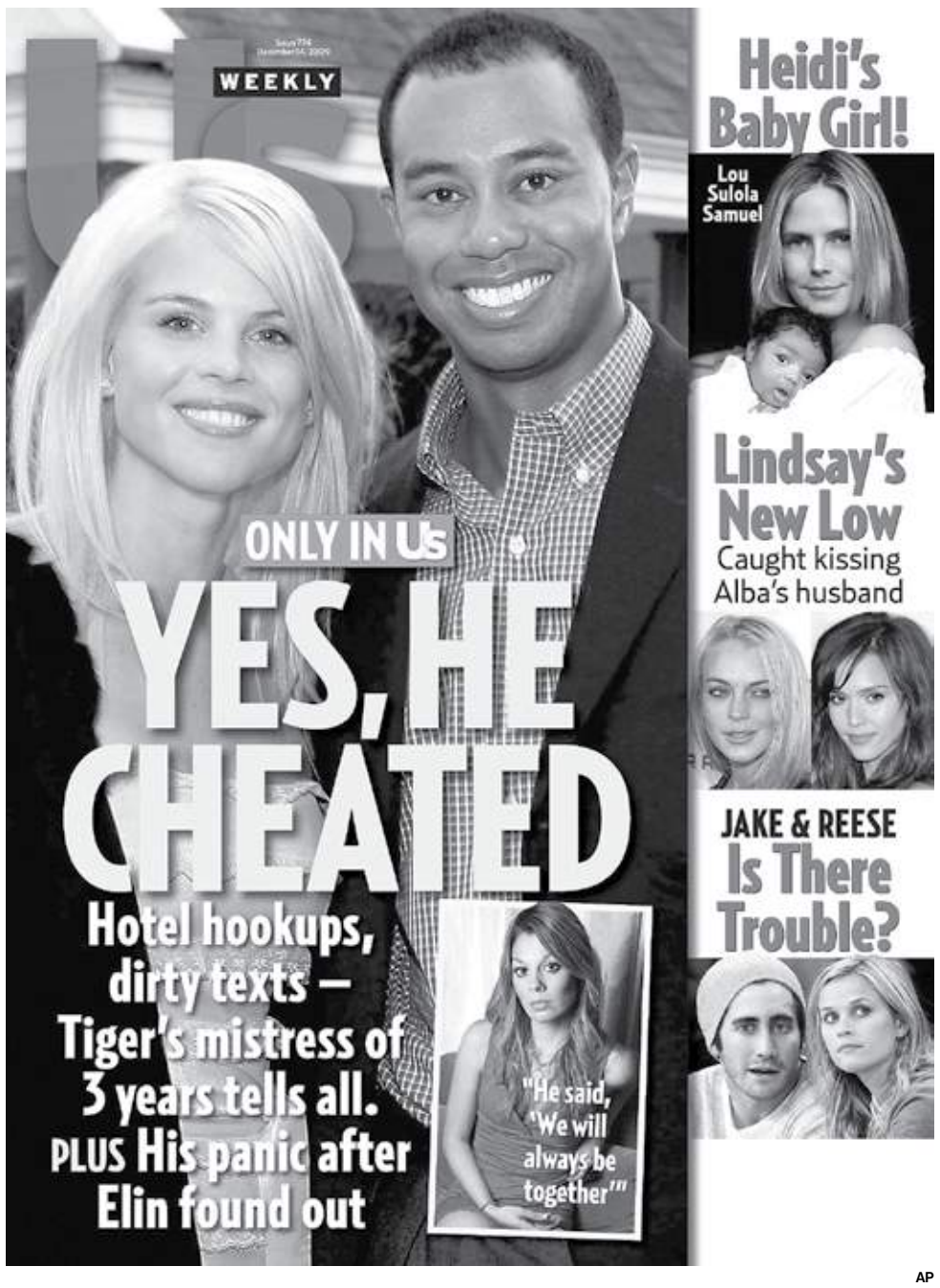
But other professional athletes had sympathy for Woods.

Jason Taylor walked into the Miami Dolphins' locker room and saw ESPN running a tease about Woods. He reached up and turned off the TV. "Nobody's damned business," Taylor said.

Minnesota Vikings kicker Ryan Longwell lives in the same Isleworth gated community as Woods outside Orlando, Fla., and said it was "crazy" in the neighborhood. He said his wife told him paparazzi were everywhere and helicopters hovered overhead.

"My wife is a blonde and wears sunglasses in Florida, so every time she comes out of the gate, they're snapping pictures," Longwell said. "It's a different thing than we've ever faced down there. It's certainly a new wrinkle to it.

"You just pray for his family," Longwell said. "You pray for his wife and kids. Just pray that if what's coming out is true that he can learn from it and move on."


WEEKLY
ONLY IN Us
YES, HE CHEATED
Hotel hookups, dirty texts — Tiger's mistress of 3 years tells all.
PLUS His panic after Elin found out
"He said, 'We will always be together'"
Heidi's Baby Girl!
Lou Sulola Samuel
Lindsay's New Low
Caught kissing Alba's husband
JAKE & REESE
Is There Trouble?

AP
In this magazine cover image released by US Weekly Magazine, the Dec. 14, 2009 issue of "US Weekly" featuring Tiger Woods, is shown.

In its final report released Wednesday, the Florida Highway Patrol said Woods caused $3,200 in property damage, was not wearing a seat belt and was traveling 30 mph in a 25 mph zone.

The six-page report—which did not include statements from Woods, his wife or any witnesses—said Woods' SUV rubbed up against bushes, crossed over a curb, onto a grass median and into a row of hedges before striking the fire hydrant and a tree. Damage to his Cadillac Escalade was estimated at $8,000.

Far more damaging to his image was the Us Weekly cover story.

Grubbs told the magazine she met Woods at a Las Vegas nightclub the week after the 2007 Masters—two months before Woods' wife gave birth to their first child.

In the voice mail released by the magazine, a man says to Grubbs:

"Hey, it's, uh, it's Tiger. I need you to do me a huge favor. Um, can you please, uh, take your name off your phone. My wife went through my phone. And, uh, may be calling you. If you can, please take your name off that and, um, and what do you call it just have it as a number on the voice mail, just have it as your telephone number. That's it, OK. You gotta do this for me. Huge. Quickly. All right. Bye."

The Associated Press could not confirm Woods was the caller.

Woods' limited response after the crash—the first statement Friday spoke of a "minor accident"—fueled speculation about a domestic dispute.

"The stories in particular that physical violence played any role in the car accident were utterly false and malicious," Woods said. "Elin has always done more to support our family and shown more grace than anyone could possibly expect."

Woods acknowledged his celebrity status—82 victories, 14 majors and the first $1 billion athlete—while maintaining his right to keep his personal affairs just that.

"But no matter how intense curiosity about public figures can be, there is an important and deep principle at stake which is the right to some simple, human measure of privacy," Woods said. "I realize there are some who don't share my view on that. But for me, the virtue of privacy is one that must be protected in matters that are intimate and within one's own family. Personal sins should not require press releases and problems within a family shouldn't have to mean public confessions."

The PGA Tour said only that Woods' statement "speaks for itself."

Such sordid revelations come at a crucial time for the PGA Tour, which is talking to a dozen companies with tournament sponsorship deals that expire after 2010. The tour also is to begin negotiations next year for a new TV contract.

Neal Pilson, former CBS Sports president who runs his own consulting business, did not think it would affect the next deal.

"We're seeing this in the glare of the day, these incredible revelations," Pilson said. "At some point, he'll play golf and he'll move on. At some point, this will become more embarrassing to the media than Tiger."

TV ratings typically double when Woods is in contention, and he has begun his season every year since 2006 at Torrey Pines in San Diego, which starts Jan. 28.

"Ratings will be good for golf. Aren't you going to be watching?" Pilson said. "The ratings for Tiger are going to be higher than they might be ordinarily. I don't think there will be any negative fallout for golf. This is a Tiger Woods story. He happens to be a golfer, but he's a worldwide personality."

According to the magazine, Grubbs said she was 21 when first approached by Woods in Las Vegas. The magazine said that meeting "progressed into a clandestine on-and-off affair" that included hundreds of texts.

"I hope he can forgive me for doing this and I know he probably can't," Grubbs is quoted as saying. "Whatever happens with Elin, I hope Tiger and I can reconnect and remain good friends."

Reached in Sweden on Wednesday, Woods' father-in-law, Thomas Nordegren said: "I don't want to comment on this whatsoever."

Wagner gets $7 million, 1-year deal with Braves

ATLANTA (AP)—The Atlanta Braves took another major step toward solidifying their pitching staff for next season, agreeing Wednesday to a $7 million, one-year contract with closer Billy Wagner.

Next up: the offense.

"The bullpen is one of the areas we needed to upgrade to get where we want to go," Braves general manager Frank Wren said during a news conference at Turner Field. "Billy was at the top of our list. The first day of free agency, we gave him a call."

The six-time All-Star gets $6.75 million in 2010, and his deal includes a $6.5 million club option for 2011 with a $250,000 buyout. The option would become guaranteed if he finishes 50 games next season.

The signing of Wagner to replace last year's co-closers, Rafael Soriano and Mike Gonzalez, was Atlanta's second big move of an already busy offseason. Tim Hudson re-signed to give the Braves six established starters and likely set up a trade to bulk up the offense, possibly at next week's winter meetings.

Wren left little doubt that's his next priority. The Braves are in the market for a power-hitting first baseman or outfielder, maybe even both.

"We knew going into this offseason that we wanted to fix two areas: the bullpen and the offense," Wren said.

The 38-year-old Wagner missed most of last season following elbow ligament replacement surgery on Sept. 10, 2008. The left-hander returned to the New York Mets on Aug. 20, reached 96 mph in his first appearance, then was traded to the Boston Red Sox five days later.

Wagner was 1-1 with a 1.98 ERA and 22 strikeouts in 13 2-3 innings for the Red Sox. In Game 3 of the playoffs against the Angels, he allowed a hit and a walk in the eighth inning, and both runners scored against Jonathan Papelbon as Los Angeles rallied and completed a three-game sweep.

He is sixth on the career list with 385 saves and second among left-handers behind John Franco (424).

Calling himself a lifelong Braves fan who grew up watching the team on TBS, Wagner said it's always been his goal to pitch for Atlanta. The deal came together quickly after Wren, manager Bobby Cox and pitching coach Roger McDowell flew to Wagner's rural Virginia home to make their pitch in person.

"I grew up loving Dale Murphy. I remember Bob Horner hitting four home runs in a game," Wagner said. "They have such a great tradition of winning and competing and great guys. I wanted to be a part of that. I'm excited about the opportunity. They'll get the best I have to offer."

Soriano (27 saves) and Gonzalez (10 saves) shared the closing duties last season, but both became free agents and now surely will sign elsewhere. The Braves immediately targeted Wagner, considering him a better option than either of the incumbents.

Wren pointed to Wagner's 86 percent success rate at converting saves over his career.

"Anything over 80 percent is really good," the GM said. "He's got everything you want your closer to be. He's fearless. He's got quality stuff. Even when you consider the job those two guys did for us last year, we had Billy ranked higher."

Nets lose NBA-record 18th straight to start season

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—All those losses in what's now the worst start in NBA history had already beaten down the New Jersey Nets.

So when the Dallas Mavericks hit them with a 49-point second quarter, the Nets simply had no fight left.

New Jersey was pounded into NBA infamy Wednesday night, falling 117-101 for its 18th straight loss to start the season.

"I think what happens is you know it wears on you," interim coach Tom Barrise said. "It's not a two-game losing streak. We play four games a week in this league and it's every day and every other day, and you know you hear it and you start to feel it a little bit."

The Mavericks made 17 of 19 shots and opened a 27-point lead in a nearly flawless second period, burying the Nets early in former New Jersey captain Jason Kidd's second trip back to his old home.

The Nets passed the 1988-89 Miami Heat and 1999 Los Angeles Clippers, who both dropped their first 17 games. New Jersey's next chance to end the streak comes Friday at home against Charlotte.

If the Nets defend the way they did Wednesday, the skid could last a while longer.

Dallas shot 81 percent in the first half, the first NBA team to make 80 percent of its shots in a half since the Denver Nuggets hit 82 percent against the Clippers on April 4, 2006, according to STATS, LLC.

"At this point, I feel the streak has definitely gotten the best of us. It's really not starting to get to us now," guard Chris Douglas-Roberts said. "So when a team goes on a run, we kind of, it's almost like we give up, which is really unfortunate but that's what it looks like to me. We kind of give up and just lay down instead of trying to fight."

Dirk Nowitzki scored 24 points and Kidd had 16 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds for the Mavericks, who led by 31 points in the third quarter. Erick Dampier added 18 points and 11 boards, and Jason Terry also scored 18 points.

The Nets, the NBA's worst team in scoring and shooting, could only blame their defense this time, which gives new coach Kiki Vandeweghe something to address when he runs his first practice Thursday.

Vandeweghe, the Nets' general manager, replaced the fired Lawrence Frank and will coach the team the rest of the season—but not quite yet. Though his hiring was announced Tuesday, Vandeweghe won't coach his first game until Friday, leaving Barrise in charge one more time.

Vandeweghe handled the pregame coach's meeting with reporters, then sat in a seat above center court with Del Harris, the former Dallas assistant who will join him on the bench.

Douglas-Roberts scored 24 points and Devin Harris, acquired in February 2008 in the Kidd trade, added 17. Brook Lopez had 16.

Cavaliers 107, Suns 90

In Cleveland, Shaquille O'Neal scored 12 points against his former team, helping Cleveland down Phoenix.

O'Neal added nine rebounds in 21 minutes, while LeBron James just missed a triple double for the Cavs, finishing with 12 points, 10 assists and eight rebounds.

Cleveland center Zydrunas Ilgauskas set the club record for games played with 724.

Channing Frye scored 22 points for Phoenix.

Hawks 146, Raptors 115

In Atlanta, the hosts posted their biggest score in 16 years, thrashing Toronto.

Al Horford had 24 points to lead nine scorers in double figures — their most in a game since 1987.

Toronto's Chris Bosh had a season-low two points in only 16 minutes on court.

Magic 118, Knicks 104

In Orlando, Florida, Rashard Lewis scored 17 of his 20 points in Orlando's 41-point third quarter that sank New York.

Dwight Howard added 19 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic, which has nine wins from ten games.

Wilson Chandler had 24 points for the Knicks.

Rockets 102, Clippers 85

In Los Angeles, Aaron Brooks made his first eight shots and finished with 22 points as Houston downed Los Angeles.

Chase Budinger added 19 points for the Rockets.

The Clippers were led by Al Thornton's 19 points.

Wizards 104, Bucks 102

In Washington, Earl Boykins scored 11 of his 13 points in the final 10 minutes, including the winning free throws with a second left, as Washington edged Milwaukee.

Gilbert Arenas led Washington with 22 points.

Luke Ridnour and Hakim Warrick each scored 20 points for Milwaukee.

Thunder 117, 76ers 106

In Oklahoma City, Philadelphia slumped to its eighth straight loss, beaten by Oklahoma City.

Kevin Durant scored 33 points and Jeff Green added 19 for the Thunder.

Andre Iguodala led Philadelphia with 28 points. Earlier Wednesday, the 76ers signed 10-time All-Star Allen Iverson.

Kings 110, Pacers 105

In Sacramento, California, Sacramento won its fourth straight, taking a tight contest against Indiana.

Tyreke Evans scored 26 points and Jason Thompson added 22 points for the Kings, who were 7 of 10 from 3-point range in the second half.

Danny Granger made six 3-pointers and scored 33 points for the Pacers, who have lost three straight.

Bulls 92, Pistons 85

In Chicago, the hosts snapped a five-game losing skid by prevailing in a defensive showdown against Detroit.

John Salmons scored 22 points, and Derrick Rose added 19 for the Bulls.

Detroit's Ben Gordon made his return against his old team. Gordon, who led the Bulls in scoring the previous four seasons before signing with Detroit, scored 18 points on 6-of-16 shooting.

Grizzlies 97, Timberwolves 95

In Minneapolis, Mike Conley scored a season-high 20 points to lift Memphis to a narrow victory over Minnesota.

Rudy Gay scored 14 of his 20 points in the second half for the Grizzlies.

Ryan Gomes led Minnesota with 20 points.

NFL changes return-to-play rules for concussions

NFL teams now have new, stricter instructions for when players should be allowed to return to games or practices after head injuries, guidelines that go into effect this week.

In the latest step by the league to address a hot-button issue, commissioner Roger Goodell sent a memo to the 32 clubs Wednesday saying a player who gets a concussion should not return to action on the same day if he shows certain signs or symptoms.

Those include an inability to remember assignments or plays, a gap in memory, persistent dizziness, and persistent headaches.

The old standard, established in 2007, said a player should not be allowed to return to the same game if he lost consciousness.

Wednesday's memo also says players "are to be encouraged to be candid with team medical staffs and fully disclose any signs or symptoms that may be associated with a concussion."

Nearly one-fifth of 160 NFL players surveyed by The Associated Press from Nov. 2-15 replied that they have hidden or played down the effects of a concussion.

The league said its concussion committee, team doctors, outside medical experts and the NFL Players Association developed the new standards.

NFLPA assistant executive director George Atallah said the union is "encouraged by this new policy." He added that the NFLPA "will continue to examine these issues independently to recommend the best possible policies and procedures." ***(AP)***

Lisua, Laniyo pace Rocball scoring

In Saipan's indigenous sport of Rocball there are more thrills to skills incorporated in play than any other variation of the Meso-American Aztec sport that gave birth to volleyball anywhere else in the world.

The sport's creator Jim Feger said in volleyball the equation of profit per play is limited to one point execution off any possible athletic skill, at any level of difficulty, from any area on court.

"When Rocball implemented offensive and defensive scoring and multiple point scoring techniques in this type of team net sports, one of its primary purposes was to identify the different degrees of difficulty inherent but inhibited in the competitive and athletic skills of the game and its players under the old side-out system of volleyball and further constrained under the rally point system of volleyball," he said.

Feger added that the points of proof comes from the Rocball players' ability to score two-point aces, two-point backcourt plays, and three-point goals in addition to one point court plays.

"In Rocball, with one exception, the net value of the sport comes from the serve. A ball has to be served over the net to initiate competition and a team cannot win a set or game without the serve," he said.

This year, according to Feger, Ben Lisua and Myron Laniyo—good examples of current and past Master Blasters—exemplify the artful ability of competing in the sport of Rocball.

Lisua of Soul Rebels is this year's first and only master of scoring. He has scored at least once in each of the five different scoring categories of Rocball. Lisua has scored aces, xunks, kees, goals, and the jam. A jam has proven to be the most difficult of plays to complete. The jam is a defensive play made by a player at the net that can spike down a served ball.

No Mercy's Laniyo, for his part, is this year's leading scorer by heavy hitting in games with a total of 11 aces, 10 xunks, 32 kees, and four goals for total of 122 points, averaging about 25 points a game in aces, xunks, kees, and goals in addition to Myron's one-point court scoring.

In the most recent Rocball games, No Mercy came from behind in the fourth set of their game against Projects to win and juice-out in four sets. Projects had the lead going into the fourth set, 44-36, and only had to win the final set to win their fifth consecutive game.

But No Mercy, spearheaded by veterans Laniyo, David Tisa, and Ichnis Kapwich, led the drive to win the fourth set 16-6, a 10-point margin, which gave No Mercy a game point total of 52 to Projects' fourth quarter game point score of 50. It was the Projects' first loss of the season.

In the game between Soul Rebels and CPC, the Lisua-powered Soul Rebels defeated CPC in four sets, 69-38. Soul Rebels won the game in a shutout by winning all four sets, 16-11, 18-6, 16-6, and 19-15. The heavy hitter of the game was John Nekaifes of Soul Rebels with three aces and six kees for 18 points.

No Mercy and Projects are tied for first place with identical 4-1 win-loss slates. Fanians are in second place with 3-0 card but they need more games to play to hold their league position. One Way is in third place with a 4-4 mark with a game left to play in the season. ***(PR)***

Organizer calls for riders, motorists safety in 'Hell'

All is set for tomorrow's 3rd Annual Hell of the Marianas Century Cycle and the organizing Pacific Islands Club is reminding riders and motorists to take extra caution as the road is expected to be slippery after it rained in the past three days.

"PIC would like to notify all motorists to be particularly cautious from 6:30am to 9:30 am on the northbound lane of Isa Drive near San Vicente, Papago, Kagman and Capitol Hill where the bikers will be riding in packs. There will be cones to indicate the bike lane as well as DPS officers and official media vehicles. If motorists can circumvent these portions of Isa Drive during the above times, it will prevent heavy traffic congestion and enhance safety for all," PIC's Kanae Quinn said.

More than 100 riders are hoping good weather will show up when the race starts this Saturday at the southern parking lot of PIC. From PIC, riders will head north to the Chalan Piao intersection, make a U-turn back to the start, and proceed south into the village of Koblerville toward the Saipan International Airport. From the airport, cyclists will ride uphill towards the villages of San Vicente, Papago and Kagman going to Laolao Bay Golf Resort. From the golf course, riders will proceed north on Isa Drive and descend down to the Kingfisher Golf Course entrance and make the U turn, scaling the long, windy road uphill to Capital Hill. At the bottom of the Capital Hill, the course converges on Chalan Pale Arnold Road to the next checkpoint high atop Radar Hill in As Matuis. The last portion of the race will have riders cruising Saipan's famous historic and scenic sites, including Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff. For the finish, cyclists will cruise Beach Road back to PIC.

Before tomorrow's race, riders are reminded to pick up race packers today from 2pm to 6pm at the PIC lobby. Packets include race helmet, back race number, HOM sticker, visor, T-shirt, and banquet wristband. Riders without helmet will automatically be disqualified. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

DOCOMO

From Page 36

Regency Saipan and Micronesian Brokers, Inc., respectively, to remain in contention.

Docomo drew 20-plus points from Syl Teregeyo and Kae Bernardo to nail a 10-point win. Teregeyo exploded for 28 points, making up for the absence of Kelvin Fitial. Also filling up for the hole Fitial left on Docomo's offense was Bernardo, who chipped in 25 points. Point guard Jun Estolas was the other double-figure finisher for Docomo with 18 points, making 12 of them from downtown.

Leo Apelo scored 27 points for CPA-Accounting, which missed Jeff Cloud. Cloud averaged in double figures in CPA-Accounting's six straight wins in the regular season. Ed Diaz added 16, while the rest of the CPA-Accounting crew struggled, putting the team in a must-win situation tonight.

Bernardo scored Docomo's first six points to lead the team to a 21-17 lead at the end of the first period. Docomo padded the lead to nine at halftime,40-31, as Estolas ended the second canto with back-to-back triples and Teregeyo and Bernardo continued to dominate the paint with the absence of Cloud.

CPA-Accounting made a little headway in the third behind Apelo and Diaz, as Docomo led by only four, 55-51, entering the final canto. However, CPA-Accounting failed to neutralize Teregeyo and Bernardo in the payoff period, as they scored 10 points each in that quarter to lift Docomo to a victory.

Docomo 79 – Teregeyo 28, Bernardo 25, Estolas 18, Abuel 6, Alvarez 8.

CPA-Accounting 69 – Apelo 27, Diaz 16, Schuler 8, Yangilmao 7, Camacho 6, Aaron 4.

Scoring by quarters: 21-17, 40-31, 55-51, 79-69.

LANCHEROS

From Page 36

with J.J. Cabrera's single driving John Cepeda and Manny Cabrera home.

After three complete innings, the X-Terminators were behind by only three, 2-5, but failed to extend the game when they were blanked in the last two innings.

Only second baseman Rudy Sablan advanced to base (first) for the X-Terminators in the fourth inning, while the first two batters, Ron Benavente and Sonny Sablan, flied out. The bottom of the fourth ended when Lancheros' pitcher Jack Reyes caught Dennis Ngeskebei's grounder and threw to first base for the third out.

In the last inning, Advance made it only to second base. Angel Reyes led off for the X-Terminators and flied out, while John Cepeda singled and moved to second on a Lancheros error. Jack Reyes struck out Mike Kim for the second out and Lancheros wrapped up the game on another 1-3 putout play against John Taitano.

Rambers 20, Berdax 16

In the first game of the triple-treat, Ramblers pulled off a come-from-behind win over Berdax, 20-16.

Ramblers leaned on a seven-run bottom of the six to beat Berdax and win their debut in the 21-team league. Berdax was still ahead, 16-13, after five-and-half innings when Ramblers made their move at the bottom of the sixth and played tough defense at the top of the last inning to steal the game.

Jason Reyes hit a two-run single at the bottom of the sixth, while Fred Pangelinan blasted a two-run double to lead Ramblers' recovery. Ben Falig, Henry Reyes, and Jaime Reyes added one RBI apiece in that run.

Ramblers completed the win at the top of the seventh when they retired Berdax' first three batters. Leadoff batter Dung Tenorio was beaten to first, Shine Tenorio after making a single was beaten to second, and D.J. Fitial was thrown out on a 4-3 putout play.

The third game of the night between the Blazers and Hitz was rained out with the latter ahead, 7-5, after four complete innings. The game will be restarted at 0-0 in the first inning, as International Softball Federation rules state five innings are needed for a game to resume where it ended.

PACQUIAO

From Page 36

office records.

Yahoo Sports, which carried the report, tagged Las Vegas, Dallas and New Orleans as possible hosts to the fight. The Nevada gambling capital, though, should have an edge in the race to host the fight because Mayweather is based in Las Vegas and Pacquiao has historically preferred to fight there, too.

The Filipino icon's last six fights—all victories—have been in Las Vegas.

Examiner.com's Michael Marley said Arum will bring with him "what he feels is a fair and viable deal in hand and he will present same to Pacman for a thumbs-up or a thumbs-down."

Pacquiao is coming off a 12-round destruction of Puerto Rican Miguel Cotto last November, when he became the first boxer to win world titles in seven different weight classes.

At the end of the bout, chants of "We want Floyd!" filled the air, kicking off the public clamor for a bout between the last two boxers to hold the mythical pound-for-pound crown. Pacquiao and Mayweather are No. 1 and No. 2, respectively, in current pound-for-pound rankings, including boxing bible Ring Magazine and Yahoo Sports, which said that the fight was originally scheduled on May 1. The site's boxing expert, Kevin Iole, wrote in his report that because of Pacquiao's political plans, "the bout with Mayweather had to be moved up to March 13 or pushed back until September."

Richard Schaefer, CEO of Golden Boy Promotions which co-promotes Mayweather, met with Arum a week after the Pacquiao-Cotto fight as pressure to forge what could be the biggest boxing bout in decades mounted.

It could also end up the richest.

Pacquiao earned $13 million in purse money alone for the Cotto fight, and was tabbed to corner a lion's share of the pay-per-view pie, which is expected to hit at least $82 million.

CORNUCOPIA

From Page 36

the NFL or somewhere else other than Florida State. He was the one coach who simply owned the Gators. But for the past six years, it's been obvious that he is not the same coach and Gator fans now wish he would stay forever. He does have one year left on his contract and said not too long ago that he wanted to return but the "good ol' boy" apparently was persuaded to step aside for younger blood.

The SEC championship game is Sunday morning Saipan time and the game obviously has huge connotations. Florida defensive lineman Carlos Dunlap, the MVP of last year's national championship game and a projected top 10 NFL draft pick, will be watching it on television with the rest of us. Coach Meyer suspended him after he was found sleeping under a green light at 3:25 in the morning, unable to pass a field sobriety test.

The Florida/Alabama winner will be looking at a perfect season and a national championship. These are the top 2 defenses in the nation. Florida allowed 9.8 points a season; Bama allowed just 10.8. Gators allowed a stingy 233 yds/gm; Tide just 234. Ironically two offensive players will have a possible Heisman Trophy at stake: Tebow and Mark Ingram.

The difference between getting picked near the top and the bottom of the first round of the NFL draft is millions of dollars. That's what Dunlap's indiscretion could cost him. Talk about poor judgment. He could not wait five more days until the game was over to get sloshed. Oh well, at least he didn't cheat on his wife or drink during the game and he's too young to quit the game.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	14	4	.778	–
Toronto	7	13	.350	8
Philadelphia	5	14	.263	9 1/2
New York	4	15	.211	10 1/2
New Jersey	0	18	.000	14

Southeast Division

Orlando	15	4	.789	–
Atlanta	13	5	.722	1 1/2
Miami	10	7	.588	4
Charlotte	7	10	.412	7
Washington	7	10	.412	7

Central Division

Cleveland	13	5	.722	–
Milwaukee	9	8	.529	3 1/2
Chicago	7	9	.438	5
Indiana	6	10	.375	6
Detroit	6	12	.333	7

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	14	5	.737	–
San Antonio	9	6	.600	3
Houston	10	8	.556	3 1/2
New Orleans	7	11	.389	6 1/2
Memphis	7	12	.368	7

Northwest Division

Denver	13	5	.722	–
Portland	12	8	.600	2
Utah	10	7	.588	2 1/2
Oklahoma City	10	8	.556	3
Minnesota	2	16	.111	11

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	14	3	.824	–
Phoenix	14	5	.737	1
Sacramento	9	8	.529	5
L.A. Clippers	8	11	.421	7
Golden State	6	11	.353	8

Yesterday's Games

Washington 104, Milwaukee 102
Orlando 118, New York 104
Cleveland 107, Phoenix 90
Atlanta 146, Toronto 115
Dallas 117, New Jersey 101
Oklahoma City 117, Philadelphia 106
Chicago 92, Detroit 85
Memphis 97, Minnesota 95
Sacramento 110, Indiana 105
Houston 102, L.A. Clippers 85

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	18	189	158	552	30.7
James, CLE	17	170	130	496	29.2
Bryant, LAL	17	184	108	490	28.8
Durant, OKC	17	160	129	465	27.4
Nowitzki, DAL	18	169	138	489	27.2
Wade, MIA	17	151	136	456	26.8
Bosh, TOR	19	159	155	479	25.2
Granger, IND	14	109	82	344	24.6
Ellis, GOL	17	160	75	406	23.9
Jennings, MIL	16	128	55	349	21.8
Johnson, ATL	17	137	58	357	21.0
Gay, MEM	17	136	68	352	20.7
Arenas, WAS	16	110	78	324	20.3
Boozer, UTA	17	137	68	342	20.1
Roy, POR	20	137	100	400	20.0
Gordon, DET	15	102	69	297	19.8
Harrington, NYK	18	126	77	356	19.8
Williams, UTA	15	115	44	295	19.7
Kaman, LAC	18	142	67	351	19.5
Stoudemire, PHX	18	131	88	350	19.4

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	83	129	.643
Howard, ORL	110	171	.643
Gasol, MEM	102	162	.630
Hilario, DEN	98	161	.609
Oden, POR	92	152	.605
Paul, NOR	85	143	.594
Stoudemire, PHX	131	224	.585
Bynum, LAL	111	190	.584
Horford, ATL	91	162	.562
O'Neal, MIA	97	173	.561

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	18	69	155	224	12.4
Bosh, TOR	19	71	163	234	12.3
Noah, CHI	15	63	118	181	12.1
Wallace, CHA	17	38	159	197	11.6
Boozer, UTA	17	35	150	185	10.9
Duncan, SAN	13	38	103	141	10.8
Haywood, WAS	16	72	93	165	10.3
Bynum, LAL	15	45	108	153	10.2
Camby, LAC	18	40	143	183	10.2
Gasol, MEM	18	50	130	180	10.0

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	18	213	11.8
Williams, UTA	15	145	9.7
Paul, NOR	10	92	9.2
Rondo, BOS	18	162	9.0
Kidd, DAL	18	162	9.0
James, CLE	17	136	8.0
B. Davis, LAC	18	127	7.1
Westbrook, OKC	17	115	6.8
Arenas, WAS	16	103	6.4
Calderon, TOR	19	121	6.4

BY THE ASSOCIATED

Togawa settles for runner-up finish in Marianas Cup

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Guam and Saipan golf players pose for a group photo after competing in the Inaugural Annual Ladies Marianas Cup Challenge Golf Tournament held in Guam late last month.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI Women's Golf Association's Yuko Togawa finished second in the total gross category during the Inaugural Annual Ladies Marianas Cup Challenge Golf Tournament held in Guam late last month.

Togawa carded a gross 80 at the Starts Golf Course in Dededo, three strokes behind champion Tessie Blaire of Guam.

The Marianas Cup Challenge had 12 players from Guam and 13 from Saipan playing for two days with the first one having a medal play format and the second using a two-person scramble play.

Besides the low gross category in the individual play, the two-day event also had competition in the low net division with Guam sweeping the Top 3.

Aige Payne, an 11-handicapper, had a gross 81 for a net 70, beating teammates Tai Maulupe (71) and Rose Cunliff. Maulupe and Cunliff have identical handicap of 12 and both shot a gross 83, but the former won on the scorecard tiebreak.

Others who joined the medal play and their gross and net scores in parentheses were Wanda Miles (88/73), Rose Tarpley (81/74), Kim Yang (86/74), Terry Tudela (91/74), Matilde Hocog (93/75), Annie Bordallo (97/75), Aya Matsumoto (89/77), Laling Couch (89/77), Lou Kim (94/78), Dolores Yamagishi (99/78), Kimiko Abe (93/80), Noriko Togawa (85/82), Lorraine Babauta (93/82), Trudy Plummer (94/82), Mary Gogo (102/83), Sherlyn Jones (96/84), Soo Soh (103/84), Dolores Camacho (119/91), Bennet Seman (116/96), and Mattie Pascual (144/108).

In the second day of the tournament at the Admiral Nimitz Golf Course in Radio Barrigada, six pairs each from Guam and Saipan played in a two-person scramble format with the host collecting 41 points against the visitors' 18 to win the event.

Meanwhile, Saipan will host the second Marianas Cup next year and will implement the same format.

RGA Club Championship this Sunday

The Refaluwasch Golf Association will be holding its club championship this Sunday on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Check-in time is at 10:30am, while tee off is at 11:30am. Tournament fee is $30, while greens fee is $35.

At stake in the weekend event is the Placido Tagabuel Award, which will be given to the club champion. The twelve monthly winners will battle for the coveted trophy. Other trophies at stake are Sid K. Peter (most rounds) and Tony Taitano plums (low net of the year.

Winners of the following awards will be feted at the banquet to be held at 7pm at the Carolinian Utt in Garapan.

RGA board of director is inviting past RGA presidents, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, Thomas Saures, Ben Taitano, Tony Satur, Tony Rogolofoi, Jess Wabol, and Adam Hardwicke, vice presidents Jesus Taitano and Joe Limes, secretaries Rose Igitol, Sid Taisacan, and Carlos Salas, handicap directors Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho, Sid Seman, and Alex Aquiningoc, and treasurer Sonny Flores to join the awards ceremony. RGA members are also encouraged to attend the banquet.

Meanwhile, RGA is encouraging its members to participate in the Delta Airlines Golf Tournament for Children's Education this Saturday on the west course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. Show time is 11:30am, while the shotgun start is at 12pm.

For more information about RGA tournaments, contact president Jordon Kosam at 483-4506, Tony Rogolofoi at 288-3515, or Jess Wabol at 288-1129. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

RGA president Jordon Kosam, seen here teeing off in one of the local tournaments early this year, announced that the club championship will be held this Sunday at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

Two indoor volleyball tourneys planned

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The newly formed Island Volleyball Club will be holding two more indoor volleyball events after hosting last weekend's 2009 Thanks 4 Giving Indoor Volleyball at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IVC president Jonas Barcinas said they will be hosting a Christmas tournament later this month and the Jam Attack in January next year.

"Last week's tournament was truly a good start and the volleyball club has plans to organize several tournaments for the community. Many volleyball players who love and enjoy playing indoor have been asking for tournaments," Barcinas said.

He added holding as many volleyball tournaments as they can will help local players prepare for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Palau and Pacific Games in New Caledonia in 2011.

"IVC is encouraging other local players to help in various committees for the upcoming Christmas volleyball tournament and Jam Attack to be held early January," Barcinas said.

Meanwhile, Barcinas thanked players, volunteers, Tan Holdings, and Hard Rock Café for making last week's tournament possible. He also acknowledged the assistance of the Division of Sports and Recreation's Elias Rangamar, Ponce Rasa, and Joe Mettao, NMIVA's Laurie Peterka, and MHS' James Feger.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The Islanders pose with their trophies and medals during the awards ceremony for the 2009 Thanks 4 Giving Indoor Volleyball Tournament on Sunday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Thanksgiving volleyball event drew four teams in the men's division and two in the women's category.

The Islanders ruled the men's division, topping the double round robin preliminary with a 5-1 record and beating Naw Mean in the finals, 25-21, 25-23. Get It, Got It, Good finished third, while Cheesecake ended up last.

Seikid swept Peligro Amigas in three games to top the women's division.

The Top 3 teams in the men's division were awarded trophies courtesy of Tan Holdings, while all two women's squads also received trophies. Medals where then handed out to top individual performers in each division.

The Islanders' Pete Iguel took the MVP plum in the men's division, while Seikid's Mayumi Ogumoro won in the women's category.

Ogumoro was also adjudged best spiker, joining another Islanders player, Myron Laniyo. Barcinas and Beverly Ngirmekur took the best setter awards, while Jermal Lisua and Charnessa Lizama were named best blockers. Tito Francisco and Jenn Leskosek claimed the best defender awards, while the sportsmanship trophies went to Cheesecake and Peligro Amigas.

Newly formed masters hoops group to meet Dec. 11

A new masters basketball association is being formed and an organizational meeting has been set on Dec. 11 at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The new group is being led by former Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Ray Lizama and BANMI board member Abner Venus.

The meeting, which will start 5:30pm, hopes to attract those interested in setting up basketball program for players 35 years old and above.

Lizama said it his intent to have the CNMI send a team to the basketball competition of the annual World Masters Games held every four years.

Sydney, Australia hosted the most recent World Masters Games. The Land Down Under also played host to the Games in Brisbane in 1994 and Melbourne in 2002.

Open to people of all abilities and most ages, the World Masters Games are the world's largest multi-sport event, attracting twice as many competitors than the Olympic Games.

According to its website, a significant, fundamental difference between the World Masters Games and the Olympic Games is that World Masters Games are open to people of all abilities rather than just elite athletes, with the emphasis on participation.

To compete in the World Masters Games, people only need to satisfy their sport's minimum age, which ranges from 25 to 35, depending on the sport. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Former Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Ray Lizama, seen here challenging IT&E's Bruce Berline in a file photo, is forming a new masters basketball association.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Tiger Woods: 'Personal failings' let family down

With a public apology and another appeal for privacy, Tiger Woods acknowledged Wednesday that he let his family down with unspecified "transgressions" that he regrets with "all of my heart." **32**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Togawa settles for runner-up finish in Marianas Cup

CNMI Women's Golf Association's Yuko Togawa finished second in the total gross category during the Inaugural Annual Ladies Marianas Cup Challenge Golf Tournament held in Guam late last month. **35**

Docomo, PSS advance to 2nd round

Lancheros, Ramblers prevail in Chamolinian league

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

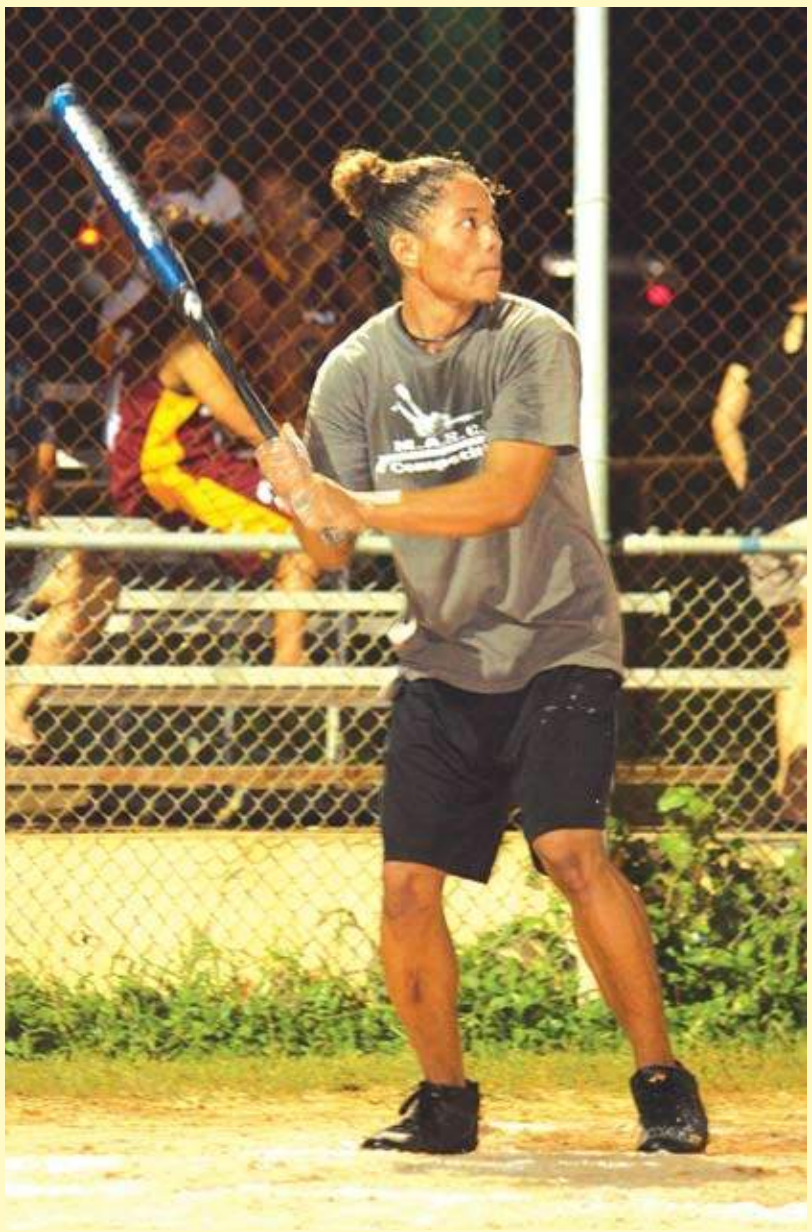
Lancheros made short work of Advance X-Terminators, winning their game in the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Wednesday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield after only five innings.

Lancheros posted a 10-run mercy rule triumph over the X-Terminators, 12-2, after drilling seven runs in the last two innings and allowing their foes to score only in the third.

Catcher Jess Cabrera was struck out in his first at-bat, but went 2-for-2 in his next two trips, including a three-run triple at the top of the fifth inning to lead Lancheros' easy victory. Also helping Lancheros' cause was Dimas Omar, who made two RBIs and two runs and went 3-for-4 at the plate.

The X-Terminators entered the scoreboard at the bottom of the third inning

See LANCHEROS on Page 34



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

A 6-Pack batter waits for the pitch from Team Fuegu during their game in the opening day of the Chamolinian Softball Association's 2009 Budweiser Slow-pitch Softball League on Monday night at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Docomo and Public School System moved two wins away from advancing to the finals of the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League after prevailing in their separate playoff games on Wednesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Docomo outclassed CPA-Accounting in the first game, 79-69, while the McGraw-Hill-supported PSS won via forfeit against Tinian. Tinian was a no-show in its first playoff match as it failed to make a special arrangement with the Tinian ferry a few hours before Wednesday night's game.

With the victory, Docomo will play rival IT&E next on Dec. 8 with the winner advancing to the semifinals game. PSS will duel Department of Community and Cultural Affairs also on Dec. 8 with the victor challenging the winner of the ITE-Docomo tiff for the first finals seat.

CPA-Accounting and Tinian dropped to the loser' bracket and must beat Hyatt

See DOCOMO on Page 34

James Villacrusis, seen here displaying his dribbling skills during the regular season, plays for Docomo, which defeated CPA-Accounting in their playoff game in the government/business caging on Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Pacquiao-Mayweather megabout slated March 13

By FRANCIS T.J. OCHOA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—The fight everybody is salivating about is to become a reality.

Top Rank chief Bob Arum is set to arrive in Manila anytime soon to present a fight contract that will pit seven-division champion Manny Pacquiao against undefeated welterweight star Floyd Mayweather Jr. possibly on March 13, reports on the web revealed Wednesday.

The reports said that Mayweather had already agreed in principle to the fight, with both camps bowing to relentless public pressure and foregoing plans to engage in tuneup matches before colliding in the ring in a bout that could end up wiping out boxing's box-

See PACQUIAO on Page 34

AP

Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines, center, holds his championship belt as he stands with promoter Bob Arum, left, and trainer Freddie Roach after winning his WBO welterweight boxing title fight against Miguel Cotto, of Puerto Rico, Saturday, Nov. 14, 2009 in Las Vegas.

Cornucopia

One of the "big words" we learned in elementary school was cornucopia only because every year it came with lessons about Thanksgiving which quickly melts into Christmas, a time for pontification (a word I didn't learn until high school).

The past week has been a "horn of plenty" for national sports with some head-scratching headlines.

Four national sports confessions made circles in my head the last few days: 1) Tiger Woods admits "transgressions"; 2) Ron Artest admits drinking during halftime of games; 3) Bobby Bowdan admits it's time for him to retire; and 4) Carlos Dunlap practically admits that he is dumb.

I believe the reaction of many men after hearing Tiger Woods' statement basically confirming infidelity would be something along the lines of "if I was married to Elin Nordegrin, I promise I would never cheat!" Time after time, we have seen our bigger-than-life heroes turn out to be mere mortals subject to the same shortcomings as the rest of us, with Tim Tebow being the exception.

I hadn't even recovered from Woods fall from grace when I read that the NBA's Ron Artest used to drink cognac during halftime of games. I couldn't even imagine that. How did he do that in the intimate confines of a locker room without the coaches knowing? Playing basketball and drinking seem to be incongruous. I do remember in the Saipan master's league one player who shall remain anonymous playing drunk and of course that only made him worse, not that he was that good to begin with.

Once upon a time, Gator fans hoped Bobby Bowdan would go to

See CORNUCOPIA on Page 34

OFF THE BENCH

By BOB COLDEEN
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Coldeen is a longtime journalist in the CNMI and is currently the news director of KSPN2